

Ban Approved Despite Student Protests

By Lauren E. LeBon
STAFF REPORTER

MIT will implement the recommendations from the flag committee to ban flags, banners, and other items to the exteriors of dormitories, said Dean of Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

The ban was approved just a day after undergraduate students staged a campus-wide protest against the ban by hanging assorted banners and other items outside of their windows.

Housing group approves plan

Benedict heads the housing strategies group, which includes Chancellor Phillip L. Clay and Dean of graduate students Issac A. Colbert. On Wednesday, the group reviewed the flag committee proposal, drafted by a committee of administrators and students in January, and chose to adopt the proposal's two main recommendations.

The first part of the policy clearly bans the hanging of posters and other items on the outside of dormitories, Benedict said. The second portion of the policy urges house governments to "develop their own guidelines for materials that may be displayed within their residence," according to the original flag committee proposal.

The new policy is not much different from the existing policy, but this new policy is written in clearer language and aims to ensure that the regulations are "consistently enforced," said Benedict.

The original housing regulation read, "The use of flammable decorations, including natural evergreens, in any room, corridor, stairwell, lounge, dining hall, lobby and other public areas is prohibited by Massachusetts fire laws. The use of non-flammable decorations must be approved by the House Manager."

Students protest proposal

On Tuesday morning, several undergraduate students expressed their disapproval of the proposed policies by hanging banners and other items from their windows,

Flag, Page 16



DHEERA VENKATRAMAN

A large banner protesting the recently instituted ban on flags and other items hanging outside dormitories spanned Briggs Field Tuesday morning. The banner was suspended by a wire running from the 16th floor of MacGregor house and the ninth floor of Simmons Hall.

Students Describe the Ideal President

By Pon-Pon Yeh

MIT students gave a varied and often contentious view of who the next MIT president should be at two recent town hall meetings held by the Student Advisory Group to the Corporation. Many, however, agreed the new president would need to improve its communication with the student body.

This consensus was not present in other issues, including gender, race, and professional background.

In addition, students expressed concern about the future of the Institute culturally, economically, and academically.

Student communication essential

A total of about 30 students

attended the two recent town hall meetings this past Wednesday and last Thursday. Students were enthusiastic about having more student-administration interaction, and especially stressed the importance of having a president that would focus on communicating with students and addressing their concerns.

The "most important quality is that he or she is accessible to the student," said Dexter W. Ang '05. "Communication is important if the students hope 'to influence change later,'" he said.

Many other students present concurred with Ang's opinion. "I want a president that cares about student opinions," said Clifford Choute '04.

"Student input is a must. I don't know exactly what direction this

school should go in, but it needs leaders who recognize that they have to pay attention to student life," Choute said.

Undecided on race and gender

Students considered the idea of a minority or female president with mixed reactions.

Those advocating a female or minority president noted that it would set an important precedent for women and minorities.

MIT has always "represent[ed] the future of the country," said Hector H. Hernandez G. "Think of the message MIT would send if they try to get" a woman or minority president, he said.

President, Page 18

Grad Applications Dwindle As Fewer Foreigners Apply

By Kathy Dobson

STAFF REPORTER

The number of applications to MIT's graduate programs has decreased by more than 1,500 this year with international applicants declining the most, possibly due to increased immigration restrictions and uncertainty in the economy.

There was a 12 percent decline in graduate applicants to MIT this year to 11,142 from 12,653 last year, said Elizabeth S. Johnson, associate director of admissions. Much of this decline was due to a fall in international applicants, which decreased by 17 percent;

however, MIT also received 437 fewer domestic applications. These numbers do not include applicants from the Sloan School of Management or Master of Science in Engineering from within MIT, and some departments may still be accepting applicants.

Johnson said uncertainty in the economy was a possible reason for the reduction in applications. She said that students might be unclear what kind of degree they should get, and they may be aiming for a broader education.

Admission, Page 14

Course IX Library To Close

By Jenny Zhang

NEWS EDITOR

The Schering-Plough library of Neurosciences and Biomedical Imaging, located in building E25 near MIT Medical, will close at the beginning of this summer.

Most of the Schering-Plough materials, primarily books and journals, will be transferred to the Science library, said Mary Jane Miller, director of development for MIT libraries.

The move comes as a direct result of the decision not to move the library into the new brain and cognitive sciences project, anticipated to open in 2005.

Originally the move was to scheduled to occur when the brain and cognitive sciences project opened, but the date was moved up to this summer primarily to cut operating costs, said Howard J. Silver, associate head of the science library.

As of now, no decision has been made for how to use the space that Schering-Plough will vacate, but one possibility is that it will be converted into office space for those who currently have windowless offices in the basement, said director of libraries Ann J. Wolpert.

Library users give feedback

Many of the library users appreciate its current location in E25 and believe that it is the ideal location.

"I think it is the essential source, everything you could want for course nine is at that library and not the others," said Nasheed I. Jamal '05, a Brain and Cognitive Sciences major.

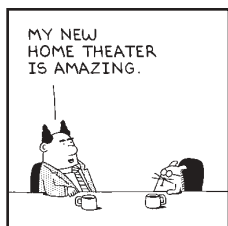
"It's very convenient because I'm an [Health Sciences and Technology] student and it's closest to the T station," said Hui S. Nam G. "I come here at least one time a day on weekdays, I'd prefer to have it

BCS, Page 17

NEWS

Team "TacShot" wins the MIT Soldier Design Competition finals, while some protest the contest.

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Comics

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OPINION

Bill Frezza '76 examines last weekend's talk by Professor of Linguistics Noam Chomsky.

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WORLD & NATION

Pakistan's Military May Have Aided In Smuggling Operations

By David Rohde And Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Interviews with Pakistani businessmen and new court documents filed in the United States suggest that Pakistan's powerful military may have played a role in the smuggling of 66 high-speed electrical switches from the United States to Pakistan last fall. The switches can be used as triggers for nuclear weapons, according to U.S. officials.

Humayun Khan, the Pakistani businessman whose office address was the final destination for the triggers, confirmed in a series of interviews here that he and his father have been suppliers of the Pakistani military for the past twenty years. But he denied playing any role in the smuggling of the American-made triggers to Pakistan.

"I know it's my address and everything is pointing to me and my company," Khan said as he sat in the offices of his firm, Pakland P.M.E., located a mile from Pakistan's parliament building. "Frankly speaking, if I want to deal in these things I would never be so stupid as to use my own company."

Yet documents presented by Khan in his own defense as well as court papers filed this week in Washington suggest that he is deeply involved in covert efforts to supply the Pakistani military.

Election Commission Ruling Allows Groups To Use Soft Money

By Glen Justice
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Federal Election Commission said on Wednesday that advocacy groups that were established to get around fund-raising restrictions in the new campaign finance law may continue spend unlimited donations for television commercials and other communications, though they must do so under far more restrictive rules.

The commission's ruling on so-called "527 committees" could have profound effects on the 2004 election by helping Democrats, who have been much more aggressive than Republicans in creating these committees to help the party compete with the Republicans' overall 2-1 fund-raising advantage. None of this money winds up in the candidates' hands but can be used to raise issues and attack other candidates by name.

Perhaps the best known of these groups, America Coming Together and MoveOn.org, gained widespread attention when George Soros, the philanthropist and international financier, pledged millions to each.

Conference Debates Ways To Confront Anti-Semitism In Europe

By Elaine Sciolino
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Prominent Jewish figures and European officials agreed on Thursday that anti-Semitism is a troubling phenomenon in Europe, and called on European Union countries to forge a common strategy to combat it.

"A European disease," Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, told a daylong conference at the headquarters of the European Union.

But the conference exposed deep fault lines that characterize perhaps the most painful and emotional debate on the Continent.

Some speakers said that anti-Semitism today was a playing-out of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the streets of Europe by immigrants from Muslim countries. Others insisted it was a mutated version of anti-Jewish hatred that has tormented Europe for centuries.

Former Enron CEO Indicted For Fraud, Illegal Profiting

By Kurt Eichenwald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

Jeffrey K. Skilling, the former chief executive of Enron, a once-staid pipeline business that he transformed into a global energy-trading giant, was indicted on Thursday on charges that he conspired to disguise the company's troubled financial performance while profiting from sales of stock inflated by false earnings reports.

Skilling, who pleaded not guilty at an arraignment here, is the highest-ranking Enron executive to face criminal charges in the wake of the company's collapse more than two years ago. He was charged with 35 counts of fraud, insider trading and conspiracy.

The range of accusations — from outright criminal violations that significantly affected reported profits to more subtle earnings management techniques widespread in corporate America in the 1990s — depict Enron as a struggling enterprise that grew deeply dependent on accounting manipulation to maintain its image as a financial powerhouse that turned in reliable performance.

Indeed, prosecutors have assembled a case that appears to depend

not so much on the specific effect of any one accusation but instead on the overall impact of a range of activities over many years. In quarter after quarter, Enron is portrayed in the indictment as struggling to find another one-shot technique to lift its earnings to meet or exceed Wall Street projections, helping the stock price continue what had been an almost uninterrupted climb over more than a decade.

With the indictment Thursday, 29 people have been charged with crimes related to the collapse of Enron, including 20 former executives. Of those, nine have pleaded guilty, including Andrew S. Fastow, Enron's former chief financial officer, who structured a series of off-the-books partnerships that were used to manipulate the company's financial performance. The Skilling charges were added to an already filed indictment against Richard A. Causey, Enron's former chief accounting officer.

Skilling, 50, surrendered just before 7 a.m. Thursday to agents at the Houston field office of the FBI. Agents then led him in handcuffs to the federal courthouse, where he appeared before Magistrate Judge Martha Crone. After his plea, he was

ordered released on a \$5 million bond and surrendered his passport.

As part of the charges, the government will seek forfeiture from Skilling of \$66 million worth of cash and real estate. It also will seek assets worth \$6 million from Causey.

Prosecutors hailed the charges as a demonstration of the strength of their pursuit of wrongdoing at Enron.

"The indictment of Enron's CEO shows that we will follow the evidence wherever it goes — even to the top of the corporate ladder," Christopher Wray, an assistant attorney general, said at a news conference in Washington.

But, in the first salvo of what is sure to be a long-running legal battle, Skilling's lawyers lashed out at the prosecution, saying that the charges were the result of a predetermined effort to indict their client that was set in motion when the Justice Department created a task force to investigate the company's collapse.

"From the moment the Enron task force was designated, there was a decision to go after Jeff Skilling and demonize this company," said Bruce Hiler, one of Skilling's lawyers. "The government's role is to investigate cases, not to create cases."

Iraq Debate Shifts To Keeping U.S.-Created Council In Place

By Jeffrey Gettleman and Dexter Filkins
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

As prospects for early elections fade, several Iraqi leaders said Thursday that they wanted the American-appointed Governing Council to remain in place after the United States transferred power back to the Iraqi people on June 30, and that plans were already under way to expand it.

The Iraqi leaders, who include representatives from Iraq's three major ethnic and religious groups, said that a consensus has emerged to increase the current council of 25 people to as many as 125, and to stay in power until U.N.-assisted elections could be held in early

2005.

The Iraqi leaders said the idea of enlarging the existing council, which has been in play for weeks, crystallized Thursday after U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan announced that holding elections for an all-new Iraqi government was impossible before June 30. Annan said he would not object to keeping the governing council in power as long as it was it was significantly changed.

"We have no other choice now," said Yonadam Kanna, head of the Assyrian Democratic Party and member of the governing council. "We are in the middle of a process and we can't have Iraq go in a random direction. The key now is to reach out to more groups so the peo-

ple feel we represent them."

Although council members have not decided yet how new members would be selected, several council members agreed that it would be important to demonstrate independence from the American government in order to win the trust of the Iraqi people.

The move to extend the governing council's rule for several months represented another complication in the Bush administration's vision for a quick transfer of power. As late as this week, American officials were still clinging to an agreement, signed with Iraqi leaders in November, that called for the governing council to be replaced on June 30 and a new Iraqi government to be selected by nationwide caucuses.

WEATHER

Near Miss

J.R. Moskaitis

This past Wednesday's tranquil conditions here in Cambridge gave little indication of just how closely an extraordinary winter storm passed to our east. While we remained dry, those in Cape Cod and Nantucket received up to eight inches (20 cm) of snow.

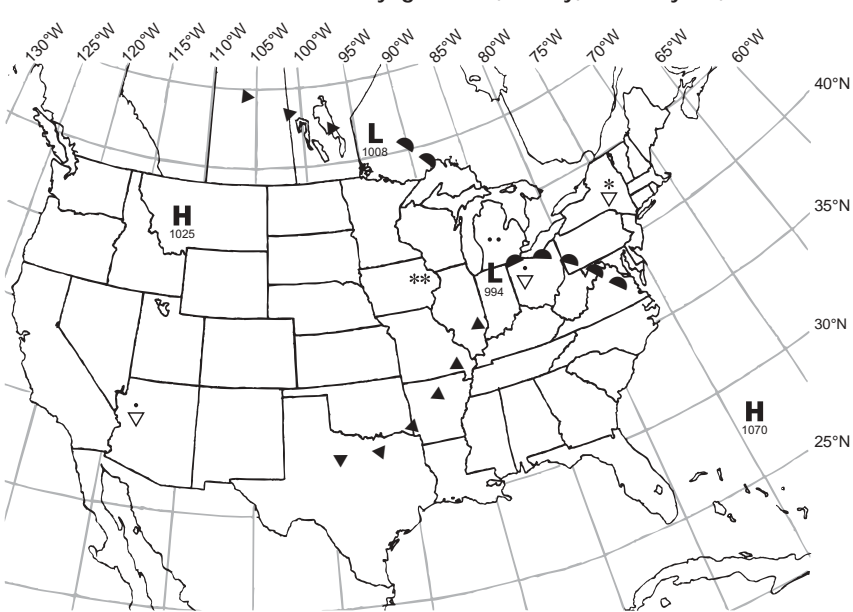
Those areas still escaped the brunt of the storm though, relative to what happened yesterday in Nova Scotia. On land, sustained winds of 40 mph (64 kph) were accompanied by snowfall rates exceeding two inches (five cm) per hour, making for blizzard conditions. In the nearby coastal waters, ships reported sustained winds of 70 to 80 mph (110 to 130 kph), equivalent to those of a weak hurricane! At least in terms of snowfall, this storm is expected to be the worst in over 30 years in Nova Scotia.

While we missed this monster storm, we are in the path of the next (much weaker) system moving in from the southwest. Expect some light frozen precipitation beginning Friday night, then changing to rain on Saturday.

Weekend Outlook

Today: Increasing clouds. High 42°F (6°C).
Tonight: Light sleet or freezing rain likely, changing to rain by morning. Low 30°F (-1°C).
Saturday: Overcast with rain showers. High 45°F (7°C).
Sunday: Mostly cloudy and breezy. High 40°F (5°C).
Monday: Continually breezy, cooler. High 34°F (1°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, February 20, 2004



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure L Low Pressure S Hurricane	Trough Warm Front Cold Front Stationary Front	Snow Rain Showers Light Moderate Heavy	Fog Thunderstorm Haze Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Israel Pullback Not To Replace Peace Roadmap, Sharon Says

By James Bennet
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel courted U.S. support on Thursday for his proposal for “unilateral disengagement” from the Palestinians, saying that it would not replace President Bush’s peace initiative, known as the road map.

In a speech and a three-hour meeting here with envoys from Bush, Sharon said he was committed to the road map. He defended his plan for withdrawing from most of the Gaza Strip as necessary for Israel’s security should the Palestinians fail to abide by the peace plan. “We will not wait for them forever,” he said.

Sharon’s aides had previously said he would only implement his proposal once he judged that the road map had failed. But the Bush administration appears reluctant to have anyone make that judgment.

Warning of a potential “security and political vacuum” in Palestinian areas, Sharon said in his speech,

“we must be realistic” and prepare other steps.

But, he continued, “I would like to stress that this disengagement plan is a security measure and not a political one. The steps that will be taken will not prevent the possibility of implementing the president’s vision in reaching an agreed settlement if and when there will be a reliable partner on the Palestinian side.”

Palestinian officials accuse Sharon of deliberately undermining the governing Palestinian Authority. They say he wants to avoid negotiations that might force him to yield more land than he plans to turn over unilaterally.

Neither side has abided by its first obligations under the road map, a three-phase plan for reciprocal, simultaneous concessions to achieve a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace in three years.

While Sharon has left the West Bank outposts largely alone, he is now proposing a far bolder step

politically — evacuating most of the established settlements in Gaza. He would take that step not as part of an agreement but as a unilateral measure to draw what he called “security lines.” He said any Israeli steps would be “fully coordinated” with the United States.

Saying he had not seen “even the slightest signs” of Palestinian action against terrorism, Sharon warned that his plan would leave the Palestinians with “much less” than they would have had if they followed the road map.

With the plan under sharp criticism within his coalition government and his dominant faction, Likud, Sharon is trying to build support in the Bush administration, which has been seeking a fuller explanation of his plans. He met Thursday with Elliott Abrams, director of Middle East affairs at the National Security Council; Stephen Hadley, the deputy national security adviser, and William J. Burns, head of the Middle East bureau at the State Department.

Edwards Brings Campaign to N.Y., Hoping To Stop Kerry Momentum

By James C. Mckinley Jr. and Raymond Hernandez
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALBANY, N.Y.

Sen. John Edwards brought his populist campaign Thursday to New York, a state that has become an unexpected battleground that may offer him a last-ditch opportunity to slow down Sen. John Kerry’s momentum and keep his own bid for the presidency alive.

Edwards landed in New York City and started the scramble for the state’s rich load of 236 delegates by declaring the economy was in a shambles, in no small part because of the avarice of multinational corporations.

“It is not good enough to serve the interests of shareholders and executives but sacrifice the needs of ordinary people who work for a living,” he declared at Columbia University on Thursday morning, sounding his standard promise on the urban campus to end a system of two Americas, divided by wealth and privilege.

In recent years, New York has not played a decisive role in Democratic presidential primaries, partly because its contest takes place late in the primary season. Not since 1988 has the state really mattered in the crucial delegate count buildup.

But, after Kerry’s string of victories across the nation, New York has taken on new significance, with Edwards saying he will focus his efforts to stop Kerry in New York, Ohio and Georgia.

“Who would have ever thought that the New York primary might make or break a candidate,” said Charles E. Schumer, New York’s senior senator.

On landing here, Edwards, a first-term Democratic senator from North Carolina, has stepped into a state known for its complicated and contradictory electoral politics. It is a state divided north and south, urban and suburban, with fault lines built around unions, race, religion and ethnicity. It has powerful fund-raisers who are sought out by candidates around the country and a vast media network that is both a curse and blessing to those who try to get their message across.

In sum, it has tripped up many homegrown candidates, not to mention those who come from places like North Carolina, or Massachusetts.

Edwards has vowed to campaign aggressively in upstate cities and in pockets of New York City’s outer boroughs where working-class people have lost jobs in recent years as more and more companies have

moved their operations overseas, his aides say.

He plans to barnstorm the state for five days, appearing on three of those days in Buffalo, Albany and Rochester, areas that have been particularly hard hit by plant closings and may be more receptive to his message.

But it is far from certain that Edwards’ tactic of concentrating on voters in economically hard-pressed regions upstate will work, because most of the state’s Democratic primary voters come from New York City and its suburbs, political strategists say.

In the 2000 Democratic presidential primary, for example, upstate accounted for 30 percent of the statewide electorate, compared with about 53 percent in New York City and 17 percent in New York City’s suburbs — Westchester, Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk counties. The 70-30 downstate-upstate ratio was consistent with previous primaries.

“The problem with the numbers is most of the voters in the primary are in the New York metropolitan area,” said Lee M. Miringoff, the director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “So there is only so much you can get statewide by doing well upstate.”

AIDS Treatment for South Africans Delayed Owing to Federal Lethargy

By Sharon Lafraniere
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Three months ago, the South African government promised to provide free anti-retroviral medication to people with AIDS, planning to supply as many as 1.4 million of them within five years.

But only last Friday did the government solicit proposals from pharmaceutical companies that supply the life-prolonging drugs, pushing back the start of treatment for thousands of patients.

A chart in the government’s plan, released in November, estimated that as many as 53,000 people would be receiving the drugs by the end of March. But the country’s controversial health minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, now denies that the government ever promised that the program would begin before April.

Sibani Mngadi, the health minister’s spokesman, said the delay was caused by the need to check

out clinics where drugs will be dispensed, set up a system to track patients and write training manuals for health professionals.

“This is a major project,” he said. “We need to make sure we do the groundwork. We can’t take shortcuts.”

The delay has drawn furious criticism from AIDS patients and their advocates, who say it may be several months before the government begins to treat patients.

“There is no excuse for the program continuing to be delayed,” said Nathan Geffen, director of the Treatment Action Campaign, which lobbies for AIDS treatment. “The money is there. Everything is ready. All that needs to happen is for the government to purchase the drugs. That has taken way too long.”

South Africa has one of the biggest AIDS epidemics in the world. An estimated 12 percent of its population, or 5 million people, are infected with HIV. No one knows for certain how many South

Africans die of the disease each day, but estimates range from 600 to nearly twice that.

After years of questioning whether HIV causes AIDS, the government of President Thabo Mbeki announced in mid-November that it would more than triple its AIDS budget to about \$1.7 billion over the next three years. Much of that is marked for anti-retroviral drugs.

Geffen said the Health Ministry had at least \$14 million on hand that it could use. He said the provincial government of the Western Cape had demonstrated that it was possible to act faster to save lives.

There, 1,800 patients are being treated with anti-retroviral drugs at 13 different clinics and hospitals, said Fareed Abdullah, deputy director of the provincial Health Department. In the next year, Abdullah said, the number of treatment sites should be tripled, with the eventual goal to treat the 5,000 to 10,000 people in the province.

U.S. TV Broadcasts In Mideast Draw Mixed Reviews

By Neil Macfarquhar

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO, EGYPT

A U.S.-sponsored satellite television station broadcasting in Arabic, probably Washington’s biggest propaganda effort since the attempts to undermine the Soviet bloc and the Castro government, is drawing mixed reviews in the Middle East, ranging from praise for slick packaging to criticism for trying to improve the image of “Satan.”

Those watching the station, inaugurated over the weekend with an interview with President Bush, find some appeal in the mix of news and pop culture. But many remain wary of the underlying political message.

The Bush administration began Al Hurra, whose name means The Free One, with the announced intent of challenging Al Jazeera and other Arab satellite stations frequently critical of U.S. policy.

Some differences in tone between Al Hurra and the Arab broadcasters were immediately apparent, like references to the “coalition forces” in Iraq rather than the “occupation forces.”

Instead of Palestinians trying to free themselves from the Israeli occupation, one anchor asked an analyst whether the Palestinians were ready to abandon their “historical dispute” for the economic prosperity surely to follow.

Everyone’s a Critic: 5,201 Trade Center Memorial Entries Displayed

By David W. Dunlap

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Still not satisfied with pool-filled voids on the site of the twin towers? Count your blessings. It could have been a monumental red question mark, a geodesic steel egg, a glowing apple spiked on a tapering spire, two ghostly white airliners with the victims’ names inscribed on the seatbacks or a steel column tilted open like a Pez dispenser to reveal a jumble of mangled artifacts.

Well, actually, it couldn’t have been. A thirteen-member jury stood between New York and countless submissions to the World Trade Center memorial site competition whose creators were unconfined by the bounds of imagination. Or, often, by taste.

All 5,201 of the entries that the jury sifted through went on display at www.wtcsitememorial.org on Thursday. Visitors to the site who signed on to second-guess the jury — “How could they have overlooked that?” — probably left with a new respect for the jurors’ devotion and patience in going through the entire lot. Visitors may also have left with a sense that the world cared, no matter how clumsy or inartful the expression.

“Now everywhere and now everyone all over the world has the opportunity to view the global outpouring,” said Anita Contini, the director of the memorial program at the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., which oversaw the competition and created the Web-based exhibition.

Besides providing a kaleidoscopic perspective on ground zero from 63 nations and 49 states (hello, Alaska?), the Web site also offers an insight into the evolution of the winning design, “Reflecting Absence,” by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, competing entrants who became collaborators at the 11th hour.

New Data Supports View That Black Holes Can Destroy Stars

By John Noble Wilford

THE NEW YORK TIMES

New X-ray observations by orbiting satellites have given astronomers their first telling evidence that appears to confirm what had been only theory: that a star is doomed if it ventures too close to a supermassive black hole.

NASA and the European Space Agency announced Wednesday the detection of a brilliant flare of X-rays from the heart of a distant galaxy, followed by a fading afterglow.

An international team of scientists concluded that the telescopes had witnessed the overpowering gravity of a black hole as it tore apart a star and gobbled up a hearty share of its gaseous mass.

“Stars can survive being stretched a small amount, but this star was stretched beyond its breaking point,” said Dr. Stefanie Komossa of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching, Germany, who led the discovery team. “This unlucky star just wandered into the wrong neighborhood.”

The astronomers estimated that about 1 percent of the victimized star’s mass was ultimately consumed by the black hole — consistent with theoretical predictions that the momentum and energy of star destruction would fling most of the star’s gas away from the black hole.

For A Price, Women Add Their Touch To Adult Toys And Games

By Mireya Navarro

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Carlin Ross and Christina Head, a lawyer and a documentary filmmaker in New York, recently teamed up to plot new careers.

Among their first moves: Ross, 30, a general counsel to dot-coms, this month restarted an adult Web site, cherrybomb.com, that features “sex and love from a woman’s perspective.” Head, 26, who has primarily covered subjects like urban youth living in poverty, hopes to produce and direct pornographic films.

“It’s all about empowering and educating women and, of course, I enjoy sex,” Head said.

Head and Ross are part of a growing cadre of women who are selling sex to other women, in this case what Ross calls “female empowered” adult entertainment — the kind with plots, foreplay and cuddling in the afterglow, the kind that is mindful of women’s tastes and suggests new possibilities for women’s pleasure.



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OPINION

Gay Marriage: A National Affair

When the justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled by a 4-3 margin that civil unions fail to grant homosexuals the rights entitled to them by the state constitution, they began an important chapter in the legal and social history of the United States. The SJC should be admired for its adamant conviction to upholding the principles of civil rights upon which the nation was founded, but a true resolution of the gay marriage issue can only occur when the Supreme Court issues a nationwide dictum allowing homosexuals the full benefits of marriage.

Editorial

Certain gay rights activists have compared the recent struggle for homosexual marriage recognition to the civil rights movement. While the parallel should not be taken too far (advocates have not been jailed or physically attacked by law enforcement during rallies), the legal histories between race and homosexuality in America are indeed striking.

In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act (DMA), ultimately claiming that states can decide for themselves whether or not to allow same-sex “marriage” and that for federal purposes, a marriage is only a union between a man and a woman. Thus 1,049 federal marriage benefits, as examined by a congressional panel, became available only to heterosexual couples. The decision was essentially an analog of the policy of popular sovereignty seen leading up to the Civil War, in which states (via popular election) were allowed to choose whether or not to adopt slavery. The U.S. government should have realized not to make the same mistake twice. Not only does Abraham Lincoln’s warning of a house divided still apply, but to claim that separate states and not the national agencies hold jurisdiction over a human right is preposterous.

That law led to the non-uniform policy across the country seen today. Thirty-nine states declared defense of marriage acts of their own, Vermont adopted a civil union policy which grants gays state benefits of marriage but not federal ones, three made registries for same-sex couples that do not necessarily imply any state benefits, and the rest remain undecided. As a result, advocacy groups have tried to go from state to state to overturn

bans on same-sex marriages or establish them as legal. The same tactic was taken in the 1950’s by the NAACP when attacking the “separate but equal” policy. Originally, legal teams took districts to court and proved that funding for black schools and white schools were not equal. Realizing that the effort was too exhausting and ineffective, the strategy changed with *Brown v. Board of Education*, which argued the very constitutionality of separate but equal.

Massachusetts has now made a similar move. By demanding that the state must recognize same-sex unions as marriages, they demand that they receive both state and federal benefits, which runs counter to the federal DMA. This incongruence has already forced the state legislature to debate the issue, but because the ruling runs counter to the federal law, it is not meant to end there. Before all is said and done, the issue should have its day in the highest court in the land, and the fate of same-sex marriages can be decided as one nation.

We applaud the Massachusetts SJC’s ruling for its leadership in the battle of equality and for challenging the traditional views of marriage. This decision serves as a reminder that the definition of marriage, like many things, is not static: in fact, views on what is right and wrong on marriage have changed dramatically. In America’s past, marriages between two people of different faiths, ethnic backgrounds, and races sparked controversy. In fact, many states outlawed interracial marriages until the *Loving v. Virginia* decision in 1967. Over the years, controversial marriages have become gradually integrated into legal and social frameworks. It is only natural that marriage, like any other social institution, be adaptive as times change.

According to Massachusetts Chief Justice Margaret Marshall, the state constitution “forbids the creation of second-class citizens.” We hope that local lawmakers keep these words in mind as they debate amendments designed to dilute the ruling by allowing only civil unions. By preventing homosexual couples from marrying, we wrongly continue to subject some members of society to a second-class status. The SJC has paved the way for progress by confronting this injustice and upholding the rights of all our citizens, and it is time for the Supreme Court to follow suit.

Letters To The Editor

When History Becomes Hijacked

This past week, I attended the Dramashop’s performance of “The Company of Angels,” written by MIT Associate Provost for the Arts Alan Brody. As I thumbed through the Playbill, I came upon the end of the “Author’s Note,” a short message from Alan Brody in which he informs the audience that the modern state of Israel was the focal point of hope for the Holocaust survivors, but warns us that we shouldn’t misconstrue his play as “an apologia for political decisions being made by that country today.” He then continues to say that he hopes “the play is a reminder of what it means for any people to be homeless and stateless.” If his political agenda were not clear enough already, he concludes that he hopes his play “might help the people who see it to understand how important a home is to the Palestinians who have been driven to their experience of despair by historical circumstance.”

The moral implications of that statement are disturbing enough, of placing the onus on the Israeli people for the suffering of the Palestinians with the same moral weight as the unbearable burden of shame which lay upon the shoulders of the world community of silent bystanders after the Holocaust.

I also realize that it probably would not prove fruitful to begin a discourse on the utter fallacy of equating Israel’s policies of self-defense to the murderous genocide committed by the Nazis, an implication of Professor Brody’s statements clear to anyone who has studied the politics of the Middle East in the last decade.

Most significantly though for the readers of *The Tech*, I believe that it is an academic tragedy for a faculty member of Professor Brody’s stature to inject his own political tendencies into his work at the Institute. He was hired to contribute to the student body his great skill and talent in the world of theater, not for his personal ideologies which may constitute his world view. It is truly an inexcusable affront to those who survived the Holocaust and to the memories of the six million who perished, and a black mark on the proverbial eye of the Faculty of the Arts at MIT.

Chaim Kutnicki '07

The Sanctity of Marriage

I applaud many of the declarations made in Andrew Thomas’s “Divorcing Marriage” [Feb. 13]. Unfortunately, for me to agree with these statements, they first had to be taken out of context. (I won’t address whether marriage should be overseen by the government or the church here, though I do think the government should have control).

Thomas is clearly an advocate of same-sex marriage while I am not. The affirmation that “marriage should be a sacred institution” is very refreshing. “Sacred” means “set apart” or “devoted exclusively to a single use,” according to *The American Heritage Dictionary*. The very essence of marriage itself is this exclusive union between a man and a woman, never between a man or a woman and any person, animal, or object worthy of his or her affection.

I also favor the expression, “Does [mar-

riage] need to be protected? I think so.” I contend that we can learn a lot from history; traditional marriage has allowed civilization to propagate and thrive for thousands of years and must be preserved for our existence alone. In this country, traditional marriage has been a bedrock of society which has permeated into every corner of the American life.

We are where we are today as a world leader in part because of our commitment to the stabilizing institution of traditional marriage. People draw from American history and try to juxtapose the issues of slavery and gay marriage as if the former validates the latter. Yes, our nation has chosen to set people free from slavery to man, and continuing to outlaw gay marriage will keep people free from slavery to sin and its consequences.

Thirdly, I too believe that “children are far better off being raised by two parents — the same two, ideally — for their entire development, living in a house filled with love.” However, I challenge Thomas’s opinion that gay partners provide “strong benefits to children” and that “average gay parents are just as capable of raising healthy children as anyone.” Even twenty years ago, research indicated that the average homosexual had between 300 and 500 partners (*American Journal of Public Health*, 1985) and that homosexuals were 24 to 48 times more likely to abuse children (*Psychological Reports*, 1986). These factors don’t exactly scream family values. If I didn’t want my children to grow up in this environment, would you still call me “intolerant” and “closed-minded”? Therefore, I whole-hearted-

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Opinion Policy

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The Economic and Social Case for Homosexual Marriage

Sean Safford

Adam Kolasinski offers what appears on the surface to be a dispassionate argument against gay marriage based on the legal principle that the protection of a given minority

group must further a compelling state interest [“The Secular Case Against Gay Marriage,” Feb. 17]. In short, his claim is that the state recognizes the marriage of a man and a woman because doing so encourages procreation and that the state has a compelling interest in ensuring that people reproduce. The relationships of gay men and women fall short of marriage according to this logic.

First, it’s not at all clear that it is in state’s interest to encourage more children. In our own country, 120,000 children are adopted each year. Worldwide, there are far more children in search of a home than there are adults willing and able to raise them. To be coldly analytical about it, increases in both life expectancy and productivity rates mean that far fewer people are needed to make society run smoothly, not more.

But even if it was in the state’s interest to encourage procreation, what does marriage have to do with whether or not people decide to have children? Most of us are capable of procreating just fine without the government’s help, thank you very much.

Kolasinski recognizes that the state’s deeper interest is in providing children with a stable, loving environment. Prefacing his remarks with the insightful comment that “the differences between men and women go beyond anatomy,” he argues that “it is essential for a child to be nurtured by parents of both sexes if a child is to learn to function in a

society made up of both sexes.”

But his comments on the subject conflate the relatively limited evidence on gay parenting with the copious research which shows that having two parents is better than one. A review of the research published in the *American Sociological Review* indicates clearly that gay parents raise children who are every bit as capable on a wide range of measures as children brought up by straight parents. Indeed, because for most gay parents having a child requires overcoming numerous obstacles, there is evidence to suggest that gay parents are better caregivers.

On the other hand, it is certainly the case that, on average, children with two parents do better in life than children that grow up in single-parent households. Children of single parents, for instance, are 1.7 times more likely to drop out of high school. But the reason has nothing to do with whether those children are adequately prepared to live in a society made of men and women. The “empirically verified common wisdom,” to borrow a phrase from Kolasinski, is that it has everything to do with growing up in loving and financially stable homes regardless of whether those homes are headed by straight or gay parents.

The fact on the ground is that gay men and women are raising children — according to research supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, estimates are between six and 14 million children have at least one gay parent. So Kolasinski’s arguments regarding the relationship between marriage and childrearing are backwards. It is very much in the state’s interest to ensure that the children of gay and lesbian parents are raised in families that are as equal as possible to those with straight parents. The far more serious danger is that, in not recognizing gay marriages, the state will enact into legislation that gay fami-

lies are second-class in status.

That is not only a civil rights argument; it is an economic one, too. Like all economic institutions, marriage can be seen simply as a means of reducing transaction costs. Marriage would save gay and lesbian families — and therefore society — the cost of hiring a lawyer to draw up 50 separate contracts covering everything from whether they are automatically granted power of attorney in the event a loved one is hospitalized to the right to securing domestic partnership benefits at work.

How efficient — economically speaking — is it to have to run home, open the safe, and run back to the hospital to present “evidence” of one’s “contractual rights” when life and death decisions about one’s child need to be made? Whose interest does that serve (other than attorneys’)? From a pure efficiency standpoint, it is much more efficient simply to include gay and lesbian couples within the broader institution of marriage.

But casting the argument in terms of pure efficiency misses the point of the debate happening across the river. Kolasinski would have us believe that people get married because the government wants us to do so. The truth is quite the opposite: people of all sexualities have been hitching up for time immemorial. What has changed is the fact that more and more gay men and lesbians are doing it openly and with the blessing of their friends, families, and neighbors. The danger is that the state will lose touch with the society it is supposed to reflect. In doing so, it risks losing the legitimacy on which its claims to regulate society are based, and that is in no one’s interest.

Sean Safford is a doctoral candidate in the Sloan School of Management.

A Lion in Winter

Bill Frezza

I had the pleasure last Sunday of witnessing a virtuoso performance by that tireless promoter of social justice, Dr. Noam Chomsky, whose lecture titled “The Militarization of Science and Space” packed Kresge Auditorium. Sponsored by the Social Justice Cooperative and the Technology and Culture Forum, Chomsky was introduced to thunderous applause as “America’s Greatest Attraction.” In wide-ranging remarks delivered to a rapt audience, Chomsky made it clear that his principles have not changed one iota since my own student days at MIT 30 years ago.

Billed as a 45-minute lecture followed by an hour for audience questions, the talk opened with fond reminiscences of the Black Panthers, the takeover of the Student Center, and a resounding call to class warfare between “us” and “them” — “them” being “the top ten percent of taxpayers” and “us” being everyone else. No less than the “survival of the species” was at stake. I was relieved that no one in the audience carried torches and pitchforks.

Deconstructing Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan’s recent testimony to Congress, Chomsky explained that the organizing force behind America’s political system is

More countries today enjoy the blessings of liberty than ever before, but Noam Chomsky has his shtick and he’s sticking to it.

that “you have to make rich people happy and poor people frightened to make the economy work.” Claims that entrepreneurial initiative drives economic growth were ridiculed, as were the Apollo astronauts (mere “clowns”) in a passing bit of relevance to the lecture title.

No, stated Chomsky. All innovation virtually “without exception” — from the computer revolution to the Internet to modern pharmaceuticals — has been state sponsored. The taxpayers (presumably he means the top ten percent of us who now pay nearly two-thirds of income taxes) bear the cost and risk and only when results pan out is the benefit handed over to corporations.

Chomsky’s best applause lines were targeted at those few capitalist running dogs lurking in the audience. “Corporate executives are, by law, pathological because their mandate is to increase profits and market share” and not to serve the public good. In a breathtaking call for the nationalization of all industry, Chomsky urged that corporations be put under public control, with power vested in the electorate rather than shareholders. Aside from prohibiting outsourcing, even automation would be put to a vote as “automation tends to decreases wages.”

Except for the claim that the United States has “probably” been arming the Israeli air force with nuclear warheads, that the quest to cure cancer is “just a pretext,” and that the economic boom of the 1990s was “nothing much to write home about,” the rest of the lecture could easily have been given 30 years ago. Come to think of it, it probably was. But since each year brings a fresh crop of impressionable young students to MIT, why tamper with perfection? The Berlin Wall may be a distant memory, communism has been relegated to the dust heap of history, and more countries today enjoy the blessings of liberty than ever before, but Noam Chomsky has his shtick and he’s sticking to it.

Alas, I was never able to ask Dr. Chomsky my question, as 45-minute lecture rambled on for almost an hour and a half. Perhaps I can ask him now: “Why do you think, Dr. Chomsky, that there are numerous holocaust museums commemorating the murder of six million civilians by the Nazis while there are no holocaust museums commemorating the 100 million people who died at the hands of their own communist governments?” Could it be because the Nazis never had much of a following amongst the intelligentsia, while unrepentant Marxists still fill our college auditoriums?

Bill Frezza is a member of the class of 1976.

Letters To The Editor, Continued

Continued from Page 4

ly advocate, like Thomas, that “marriage, as we see it now, can only be saved by taking it more seriously as [a] pure, idealistic, and glorious union,” but only between a man and a woman who love each other enough to recognize this institution as sacred.

Sara Vassallo

Clarifying the St. John’s Case

I am writing in regards to what I consider to be a misrepresentation of the facts in Yong-Yi Zhu’s column [“Sex and the Sports Game: Which Obsession Domineers our Minds?”, Feb. 13].

Zhu wrote, “At least in Colorado, nobody was disciplined because everything was legal. At St. John’s, many of the players were suspended because it was discovered that they had hired a prostitute.”

The second sentence doesn’t properly tell the story. The facts of the case, available to anyone with a web browser, are that several St. John’s players attended an adult establishment of some sort, engaged in consensual sexual activity with the supposed “prostitute,” then refused to pay her the \$1000 that she demanded afterwards. Following this, she accused them of rape. After the university’s suspension or expulsion of several involved parties, the woman’s charge was shown to be false, and she herself was charged with prostitution, attempted extortion, and falsifying a report.

Now, we don’t know whether or not the players knew a priori they were soliciting a prostitute. She claims that the players agreed to the payment beforehand, but the fact that she falsely claimed she had been sexually assaulted threatens her credibility in my mind. Additionally, the fact that she was not paid makes the idea that they “hired” a prostitute a null one. It is not a crime to my knowledge to have sex with a woman who ex post facto attempts to employ herself thereof.

The other important point is that the suspensions and expulsions (some of which have since been upheld) from the Catholic school did not come from a supposition of illegal activity, but “for violation of team rules and behavior inconsistent with St. John’s mission and values,” according to a school news release.

Either way, the situation is far more complex than “they had hired a prostitute.” And in fact, as early as a week before Zhu’s column, voices at Colorado were recounting accusations of rape in the very situations Zhu confi-

dently labels “legal.”

Now, I’m sure there are reasonable explanations for this. Perhaps Zhu didn’t read recent articles on the case. However, these players deserve no more than the reputation damage commensurate with their actions, or in other words, they deserve contempt and punishment for their late night carousing, not for a false rape charged by an angry woman.

Despite it being an opinion column, the misrepresentation of facts has no place anywhere in journalism, least of all on the sports page.

Christopher P. Anderson ’04

Marriage Criteria?

I really wanted to understand Adam Kolasinski’s column [“The Secular Case Against Gay Marriage,” Feb. 17], but it left me scratching my head — at least until it dawned on me that by trying to balance this issue on a fulcrum of haphazardly interpreted economics, he had inadvertently and forcefully tipped the case in favor of gay marriage.

It is true that procreation has traditionally been an important consideration in marriage and perhaps even qualifies as a compelling state interest — but does that justify using it as a litmus test for whether or not two people should get married? Kolasinski answers this question when he points out the many potential circumstances wherein a marriage between heterosexuals does not result in issue.

If the objective is to deny marriage to those who cannot or will not procreate, why not at least take the simple step of asking couples (note that costly, mind-reading technology is not required) what their plans are and refuse licenses to those who do not intend to have children? Additionally, since propagation of society is so important, why not exclude couples who plan on having fewer than two children? The answer, of course, is that we don’t have the moral or legal authority to do so and that gay marriage is therefore not merely an issue of procreation, but rather one of civil rights and equal treatment.

The biggest danger of following Kolasinski’s logic to its dubious conclusion is that we may enshrine into law the notion that marriage exists solely to facilitate procreation, and, worse, that economics has anything meaningful to say about marriage.

John Armstrong

In Defense of Israel

When I read the title of the article “How to Bring Peaceful Coexistence Back to the Middle East” [Feb. 17], I thought that it may be

interesting and that the author may have original views and solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Maybe she would stress what one could do toward resolving this issue, especially since the role of the civil society was made clear by the recent Geneva peace initiative brought about by Israelis and Palestinians working together.

I was not only disappointed by the article, but also shocked. The author merely provided a synthesis of the propaganda brought by extremist Palestinians who deny Israel the right to exist and advocate its destruction. The article is of course full of inaccuracies that demonstrate the ignorance of the author. I would stress only two.

First, the author pretends that Israel is the only country in the world to mention the ethnicity or religion of citizens on national I.D. cards. However, this is common practice in all countries in the Middle East, including Israel’s neighbors like Lebanon, and is even the case in a secular state like Turkey. It is also the case in some other parts of the world like Vietnam.

Second, the author pretends that the Zionist leadership was an ally of the Nazis during World War II because of an individual initiative of a second-rank right-wing Zionist activist who contacted a low-level Nazi diplomat in Istanbul during the war. This is ridiculous; despite the measures taken by the British against Jewish immigration to Palestine in the 1930s, Zionist leaders like David Ben-Gurion supported the British in their war against the Nazis and many Jews of Palestine fought alongside the British in the Jewish brigade. In the meantime, the leader of the Palestinians spent the war in Berlin, visiting on some occasions the extermination camp in Auschwitz.

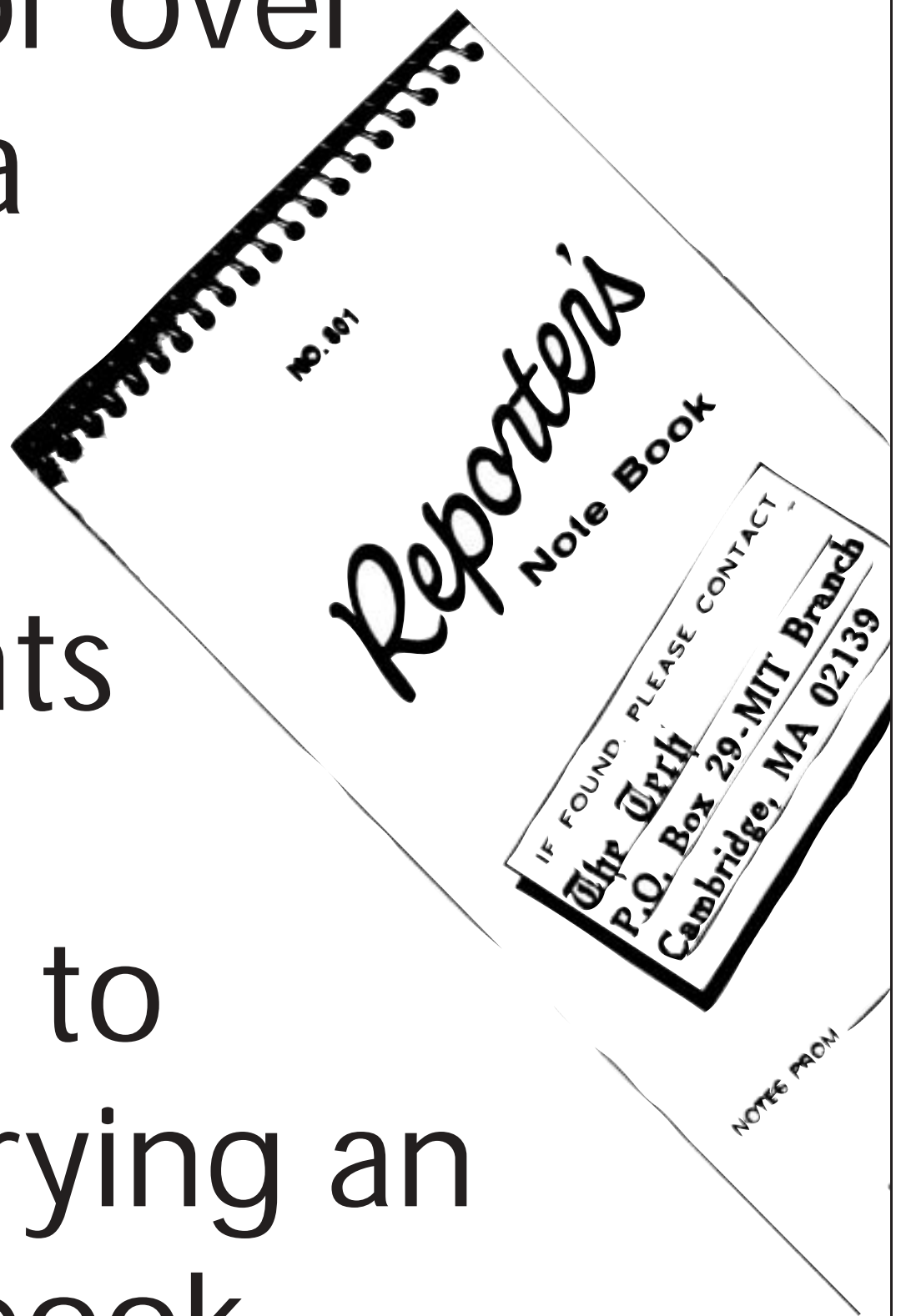
What is unacceptable in this article is to pretend that Zionism and Nazism are the same ideology. This is a shameful attack on the memory of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and cannot be accepted.

It is pointless to discuss these facts with the author. You cannot convince someone who hates. However, I hope that the editors of *The Tech* will not accept such “contributions” in the future, since this one assimilated Zionism and Nazi ideology, while advocating the destruction of an established state.

I will conclude by sharing with you two thoughts. The first one is that a high level of education, even if it includes the most advanced degree, is not a guarantee against political extremism, and hateful ideology. Second, as the great Martin Luther King, Jr. believed, there is no difference between anti-Zionism and anti-semitism.

Emmanuel Carrier G

Every fall for over a century, a select group of MIT students have been going back to school carrying an extra notebook.



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN JOIN THEM.

We're *The Tech*, MIT's oldest and largest newspaper, and this fall we'll have openings for freshmen, upperclassmen, and graduate students in the following departments: News, Sports, Arts, Opinion, Photography, Production, and Business. Previous experience is welcome but not essential.

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The Tech is also MIT's oldest student activity, and that means organized (and disorganized) events like Sunday night dinners, annual Talbot House retreats and banquets, and movie premieres, as well as a generally fun place to hang around.

SO WHY NOT STOP BY?

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FEATURES

How to Eat Like an Asian

Dim Sum Part Deux

By Mark Liao
FEATURES COLUMNIST

There is a certain nostalgic feeling I get each time I go to dim sum. As a kid, you just point and food magically appears. You don't need to know what it's called; they show it to you before you decide whether you want it. However, as with most things, the older I got, the harder things became. For example, I wouldn't be writing this article had it not have been for a certain next door neighbor who we shall call "Nameless."

This guy is the most Asian white boy you'll ever meet. He pledged an "Asian frat," he listens to techno, and he does the best impression of ordering from Quan's Kitchen ever. ("Ooooooh we have many different types of chi-kan. We have sweet sour chikan, sesame chi-kan, General Gau's chikan.")

So I expected him to be fine at dim sum. And of course, I was completely wrong. He whined and griped about everything and anything. "Ew, what's that? I don't eat pork. Is this supposed to be sweet or salty?"

When we finally found him a piece of chicken, he wouldn't eat it because, "it doesn't look like chicken." Taking the swim team to dim sum wasn't that successful either. Well, more accurately, taking the gay Jewish guy from the swim team to dim sum wasn't suc-

cessful. So I dedicate this article to anyone who has ever felt like dim sum was not for them.

I have made a list of dishes that the more hardcore dim sum-ers do. Actually, these are definitely just as standard as the dishes from last week, it's just I find that it's harder to get people like Nameless to go for them. The following are the english names in bold, followed by the Mandarin and Cantonese translations.

Turnip Cake (Lor baak go/ Luo buo gao) — The only reason I put this here is because the term "turnip" tends to scare people. In reality it's not a turnip, but a daikon radish. Think of a carrot and a radish getting together, doing the horizontal polka, and nine months later, out pops a daikon radish. These tiny squares are a mixture of daikon puree, bits of meat, and dried mushrooms that are steamed, then pan fried and served with a thick soy sauce. Again this is relatively tame, and definitely standard.

Steamed Chicken Feet (Fong Jiao/ Fon Tswa) — Mmm, steamed chicken feet. By feet, I mean what they cut off the drumstick. It is kind of weird thinking you're eating the skin and tendons and not necessarily meat, but trust me, people, this is very tasty. Be adventurous, go for it, you'll be pleasantly surprised. I know there are people out there who love eating the skin of a chicken breast, well

it's the same skin, only on feet. (It tastes like...feet!) Okay, I give up. It sounds gross, but I've been eating this since I was young enough to enjoy Fraggie Rock.

Fried Tarot Dumplings (Woo Kwok/ Oui toe gyau) — Tarot root: it's found in poi, a Hawaiian dish so please, white people, don't be afraid. I guess people are thrown off by its purple color, but in all reality it's almost exactly like a potato or a cassava root (yes, the stuff they make boba out of). So this dish is tiny pieces of pork and splinters of bamboo encased in tarot root and then deep fried. It's best served when hot. And if there's some "special" one with a huge crab claw jutting out of it, don't bother, it'll cost you a buck more and won't really taste that much better.

Preserved Duck Egg Congee (pei dan sau yok joke/ pe dan sau yau tso) — Congee is basically fine porridge. For those of you unfamiliar with porridge, it's basically a soupy way to serve rice. With two cups of rice, instead of filling the rice cooker up to the two cup line, fill it up to the five cup line. What is a bit dangerous about this dish is the preserved duck egg. I don't really want to go through the process of how they preserve a duck egg, and I'll admit, its obsidian color is very unappealing. But quite frankly, it's really good. The dish also contains slices of pork and should be

garnished with slices of green onion. Sometimes there might be ginger in it (ew), but on the flip side, you *must* sprinkle on some white pepper. Oh, and to humor some of the white folk, they may throw on some pieces of fried wontons.

On my most recent excursion to China Pearl, I went with a party of five. We ate till each of us was brimming and were out the door about \$10 dollars down a person. Personally, I think that dim sum is a balancing act between price and variety of dishes. Since most of the dishes have about four one-person servings, my favorite number is going in groups of three. That way, you might get two pieces of your favorite items because there might be someone who doesn't want their share. Children...be nice about taking the last piece.

If you want a good tea, try the chrysanthemum tea (gi hwa tsa). The lady even asked if we wanted sugar in it.

And the last tip of the day: the chopsticks at most dim sum places are notoriously slippery. You try plucking that last tiny, lil' pork riblet from its sea of oil with these pseudo-ivory chopsticks. My point: stab whenever possible with one chopstick and fake holding onto the item by making sure the other chopstick touches whatever you're grabbing. Else, just ask for a fork. Happy eats.

Positive Sinking Mobile Sterility

By Akshay Patil
FEATURES EDITOR

Aksheezy,
Do you know anybody who looks like Constance Marie? (Also, how do you pronounce her last name? It looks like Mah-ree, but it could be Mah-ree-eh).

—Mxmx

For those of you reading along at home, the subject for this e-mail is (and I quote) "No Kids Rapping or Ostriches." That's right. Rapping ostriches. No, it doesn't make any sense. But somewhere out there, there's an individual who is absolutely psyched (or at the very least, greatly amused) that I'm printing their random e-mail. I really don't know what to say about this... other than I can only suspect that it's "mah-ree," since "mah-ree-ah" would imply that the name ended with an "a." There, you excited yet? Whoa, down boy.

I don't even know who Constance Marie is. If I had an Internet connection, I could look it up... but I don't. Nope, I'm sitting in an airport terminal, waiting to board my red-eye flight, trying to be somewhat funny while I blearily stare at my computer screen.

You know, if my cell phone had blue-tooth or some other wonderful piece of technology in it, I'd be able to connect to the wonderful wasteland of weird we call the world wide web. Granted, it'd be slow as refrigerated molasses, but at least the ether would drip drip its way into my computer. But my cell phone doesn't have any thing like that.

Nope. Just sits there and emits large quantities of radiation which makes me quite nervous since I keep it in my pocket and that's dangerously close to, you know, certain areas of the male anatomy that guys tend to enjoy keeping in working order. I really wonder if people have done studies as to the effects of keeping your cell phone in your pocket... didn't they show that cell phones caused brain cancer or something? What about all that time it spends next to... thingy? I mean, it can't be good; just sitting there going, "here I am!" all the time to the cell phone tower and the cell phone tower replies, "great! Remember to send large quantities of radiation through some guy's sensitive areas!" and the cell phone goes, "sweet! Not only am I a digital leash, but in

another two years he won't be able to have babies anymore!"

You think I'm kidding, but its the truth... cell phones are evil like that. Not only does my cell phone try to destroy my virility, but it always insists that we're in Germany. I swear. I turn it on and my phone friendly greets me with a "why hello! Wow, it looks like we're in Berlin! Well, I better change time zones to German time, since we're obviously in Germany, despite the utter lack of Lederhosen." And then it starts talking extra loud to the cell phone tower in German, I think.

I'm not quite sure what it does... all I know is that it does it through my crotch and I'm paying for it. Maybe the phone does this because it's a Siemens (I dare you to read that word out loud) phone and it misses home or something. All I'm saying is, does it really have to take it out on my manhood?

Maybe my front-pocket isn't the best place to keep it, but where else am I supposed to keep it? My back pocket? If I put it there, I'll probably get ass cancer. Well, I guess that'd be better than my current future, but I'm guessing ass cancer probably isn't a walk down candy lane either. With my present situation, I wouldn't be able to make babies, but at least I'd be able to sit down.

I guess I'll just have to move it to my purse. Man, that'll be a pain, I barely have enough room in there for my makeup, eyeliner, lip gloss, tamp... err. Yeah.

People still just don't seem to believe that I really do get the e-mails I publish. I don't know what more I can do to convince y'all that I don't have the creativity to manufacture these things and to impress upon you, the reader, the fact that I depend on your e-mails for sustenance. Without your e-mails to sinking@mit.edu, my body would go into withdrawal and I would probably die... or turn into a guinea pig. The kind of guinea pig that pees when you terrify it by doing scary things like look at it, or vaguely in its general direction. And then instead of this wonderful grey box of "Positive Sinking," you'd open up The Tech to find a big damp spot in the Features section. Oh well, it'd probably mark an improvement in column quality.

What's Next? Catch Them While You Can

By Ian Ybarra
FEATURES COLUMNIST

"I'm too busy." Next time you use that as reason for not doing something, send e-mail to Professor of Materials Science Craig W. Carter. I dare you. The automated response will make you think twice about whether your "I'm too busy" is actually a reason or an excuse.

It begins, "It has become impossible to answer all the email I receive. Even if your email is important, there may be a delayed response. I will read email frequently, but only answer urgent and emergency emails immediately. I am grateful for your patience."

That is followed by a brief explanation of why he cannot reply to all e-mail, a suggestion to send him reminder messages if necessary, and a list of seven URLs where he has posted answers to FAQs. *Personal* FAQs? The man is busy.

Reading the auto-reply made me think back to when I sent my e-mail. By pressing the "send" button, I had really just pressed my luck. I felt disappointment, but only with myself.

Over two years have passed since I was in the Introduction to Thermodynamics class taught by Carter (That's 3.00, which is now extinct). Although I was among those who had distaste for Thermodynamics, I consciously exerted more effort in that class than in my others. And I did so because Professor Carter honestly stated the difficulty of understanding thermodynamics and consistently demonstrated his passion for teaching it.

The way he spoke about the importance of what he was teaching and the new problems that he and his colleagues were exploring made me sense that he loved his work. And I wanted to hear the story of how he figured out what kind of work would reward him. But I didn't ask — not until last week.

We all run across people whose sheer excitement for their work inspires us to find our own callings. We wish we could hear how they struggled with their career decisions. Although we learn more from actually doing the work that intrigues us, we can still glean some transferable knowledge from others' experiences. However, we must ask first.

Luckily, Professor Carter manually replied to my e-mail and agreed to chat with me for 20 minutes. Still wanting to pout about having waited so long to ask, I raised my chin up and went to his office. Here's what I learned.

For Carter, many rewards of his work have been made possible because, at several times in his career, he simply chose not to limit himself.

As an undergrad at UC Berkeley, he contemplated switching his major from materials science to mathematics or physics because of a few classes that he enjoyed. Then he followed advice that he "should stay in materials science because it's so flexible that you can do as much math and physics as you want to."

Years after earning his triple crown from Berkeley, Carter was working in an industrial laboratory, performing similar duties to those he has now as a professor: doing research, publishing papers, and managing other researchers and funding. But by becoming a professor, he added teaching to that list.

And when I asked if he could happily continue in his current role or if he still wonders what he's going to do when he grows up, Carter said, "I think everybody ponders that question." He added, "I would expect that many people who stay in academia do so because it is more or less not making the decision."

Perhaps that's the answer we should all strive to give, regardless of the type of work we pursue. For Professor Carter, it involves teaching and developing ways to compute the effects of material properties and processes on material behavior. For others it could be enhancing flight simulators or mentoring children from broken homes or building a better mousetrap. If we find work that constantly presents new challenges that excite us, we might feel like we never endured the stress of deciding what kind of work we want to do.

I was fortunate to hear Professor Carter's story last week, and I intend to ask for the stories of others who have inspired me before it's too late. I encourage you to do the same. Catch them while you can, my friends — before your e-mail draws auto-replies pointing to *personal* FAQs.

Yay for Fridays.

Got News? Call *The Tech!*
x3-1541 or *news@tt.mit.edu*

Sex and the SafeRide

Be that Sexy Bitch

By Alex Nelson
FEATURES COLUMNIST

In the world of MIT, fashion is often amiss. Style is haphazard at best, with little effort going into a student's wardrobe, grooming, and accessorizing choices. On the social scene, this puts us at a disadvantage. We are already stereotypically viewed as nerdy and, heck, a lot of us are. But that doesn't mean it should be obvious from a first glance. There are times when nerdy is a good thing, for instance, in academics. However, in life, nerdy tends to hurt us.

Let us begin with the basics. Here's a simple color rule: Black and brown do not go together. Far too many times have I seen a student walking down Amherst Alley on the way to an interview wearing a black suit and old, dirty, brown boots. If you spent the money on a nice suit, you should not ruin it by wearing brown shoes. I don't care if you only have one pair of shoes; though that is a problem in itself. This also applies to belts and jackets. In casual situations, this rule carries less weight. But by no means is it acceptable to attend a formal gathering with an uncoordinated outfit. Your lack of attention to detail reflects upon your character.

Size does matter! I realize you hate to shop for clothing, but please take the extra five minutes to try on your clothing

before making a purchase. Dress pants should hit past the ankles and casual pants such as jeans can be longer, but not too long that you step on them or they drag when you're wearing tennis shoes.

When purchasing pants, look for a straight-leg style or one that does not taper at the ankle. Straight legs are most flattering and fit well over most shoes. When purchasing shirts, keep in mind that you want to choose a size that will fit your body. Too big is unflattering. Too small makes you look fat or like a little kid. Improperly fitting clothing is extremely noticeable. If you're going to purchase clothing, you might as well spend wisely.

Now please let me address personal hygiene. Hygiene, your personal cleanliness or lack thereof, is an accurate measure of the effort you put into your appearance. Poor hygiene is disgusting. Although you may not realize that showering once a week is not enough, the people around you will smell you and avoid you.

Some basic standards of hygiene involve showering daily using body soap and shampoo. Apply deodorant after showering and before exercise to prevent bodily odor. Teeth should be brushed twice daily, to get rid of morning breath and prevent tooth decay before going to sleep.

Acne and other skin problems are medical conditions that should be treated by a dermatologist. Dermatologist-prescribed ointments and pills can clear up breakouts and prevent further irritation. These personal hygiene measures help to enhance your natural appearance without changing your personal style.

Grooming follows from hygiene. Although not necessary to ensure a healthy body, it can do a great deal of good for your overall appearance. A regularly maintained hairstyle is easier to manage than a hairstyle that has grown out of style.

Hair grows at a rate of about a half-inch per month. For both women and men, getting a trim is important to keep the ends clean. Split ends occur when hair dries out and begins to shear up the hair shaft. Regular haircuts are recommended every 6-8 weeks. Whether at a salon or using a haircutting kit yourself, haircuts prevent split ends and will give you a polished look.

Keeping these simple tips in mind can help a person to maximize their attractiveness with little added effort. Not only will looking great improve your chances for success in love and in work, but it will also boost your confidence level. So what are you waiting for, you sexy bitch?

Scratch Paper

Love Your Job

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

There is love in the air as hundreds of single students line up to enter the ultimate matchmaker: the MIT Career Office. Each comes searching for the perfect bride. As the MIT Club of New York President Thomas Halket put it, they're in search of "those sexy jobs."

Goldman or Lehman? Amazon or Google? Now, don't be intimidated by the beauties that outshine each other. Remember that you, too, are an eligible bachelor dressed by the world-renowned designer, MIT.

However, the name does come with a little

baggage. What we have in brains, we occasionally lack in suaveness (we should learn from those down the street). In addition to looking our best, we must remember to:

1. Nail the critical 15-second first impression.
2. Persuade in-laws that you, too, deserve to be part of the family.
3. Show your dream date why her future is better when you are in the picture.

Often, students do not give this "relationship" enough time. Just like courting, you must attend the company presentations and tech talks throughout the year, get to know the representatives, and personalize your skills to

the specific company. Nobody likes a player who dabbles with every available offering.

In search of the love, I, too, enter the career center. It is dating desperation. Running shoes litter one corner. Students look uncomfortably suit-shocked. The one copy of the *Wall Street Journal's* "Money and Investing" section is finally being read, and even fought for by students vying to be its next reader (I recommend subscribing to the online edition, which posts the next day's news at precisely 11:45 p.m. the night before!).

In a sea of grey and black powersuits, two representatives from the company for which I'm interviewing appear out of nowhere. I am impressed. Although they are greeters, you must treat them like the interviewer. Just like dating, you not only have to impress the girl, but also her best friends, her parents, her dog...

The date begins. I answer the questions like "tell me about yourself," solve a few logic puzzles, and look the recruiter in the eye.

Often, we are so eager-to-please that we forget it is a two-way conversation. People

like to talk about themselves, and if you don't give them a chance, the relationship will fail. Remember, the bride has been sitting there in the gloomy, grey cubicle interviewing over-caffeinated candidates for the past six hours.

I was lucky to have a great interviewer. In our two-way conversation, he actually talked for a third of the interview. By asking him questions, I learned that one of his frustrations in the information technology job I applied for was that the finance teams set the vision, and the IT teams merely worked to complete the assignment. It would be better to work directly for a technology company. Wisdom, indeed.

It is equally important to know what you do not value. That way, you save time by tailoring yourself to the career of your dreams.

Remember that no job is perfect. Sometimes, we work too hard in wooing that perfect "one" only to discover, too late, that there are flaws. Maybe that glamorous I-banking job on Wall Street is lucrative, but will you realize that before you are single and overworked at 40? Even if your internship is in the middle of Arizona desert, you can learn, be flexible, and more opportunities will open up for you.

Best wishes in finding love at today's Diversity Career Fair!

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Sunday, February 22nd
6:00 – 9:30 pm
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Tech Catholic Community

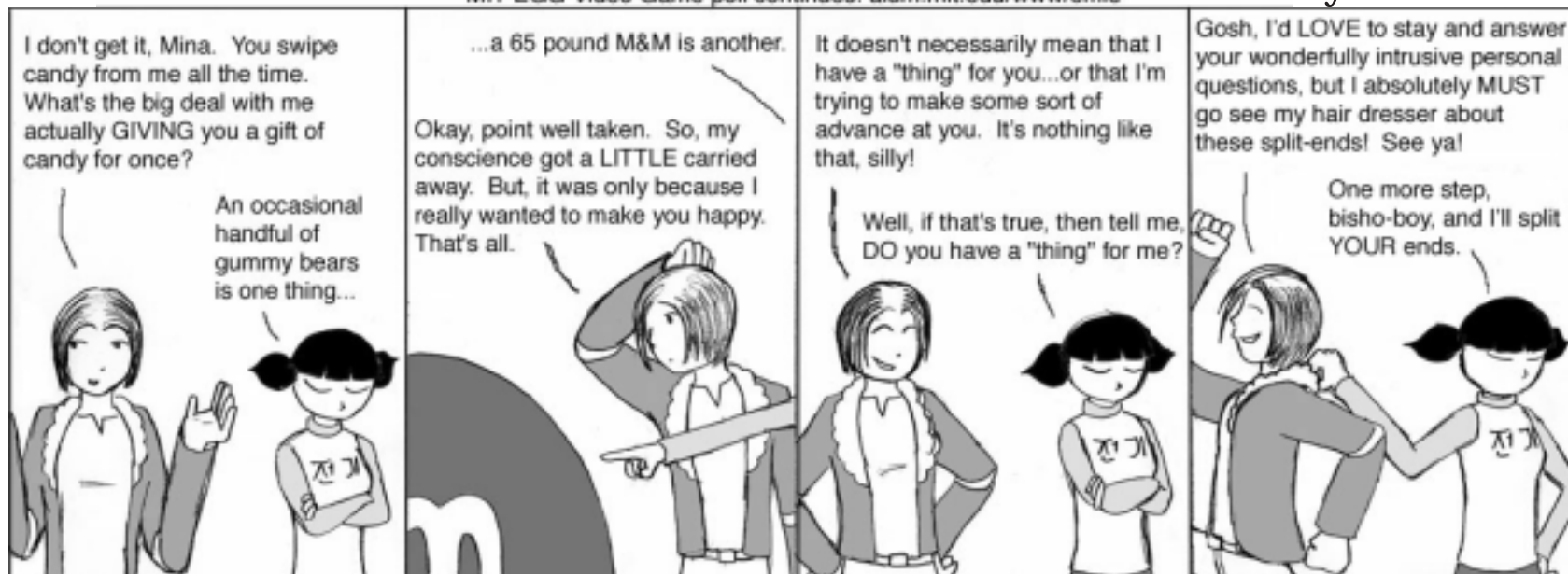


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Trio

MIT EGG Video Game poll continues: alum.mit.edu/www/emie

by Emezie Okofo



Ruth Perlmutter approves of this comic

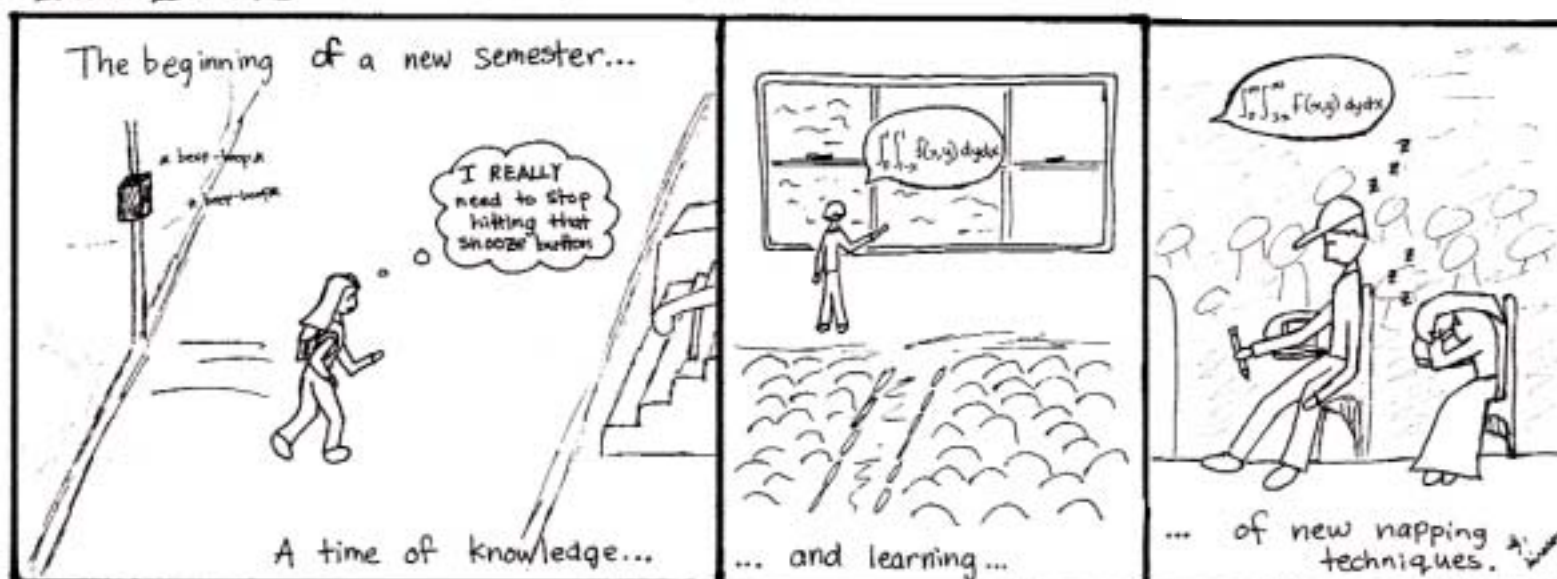
by Brian Loux



Don't be a cock, see the show about pussy.

Kirason's Corner

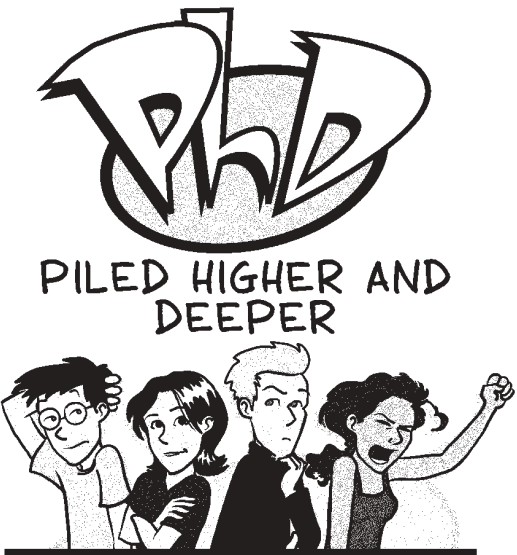
by Emily Yan



Fascist Popsicle Stand

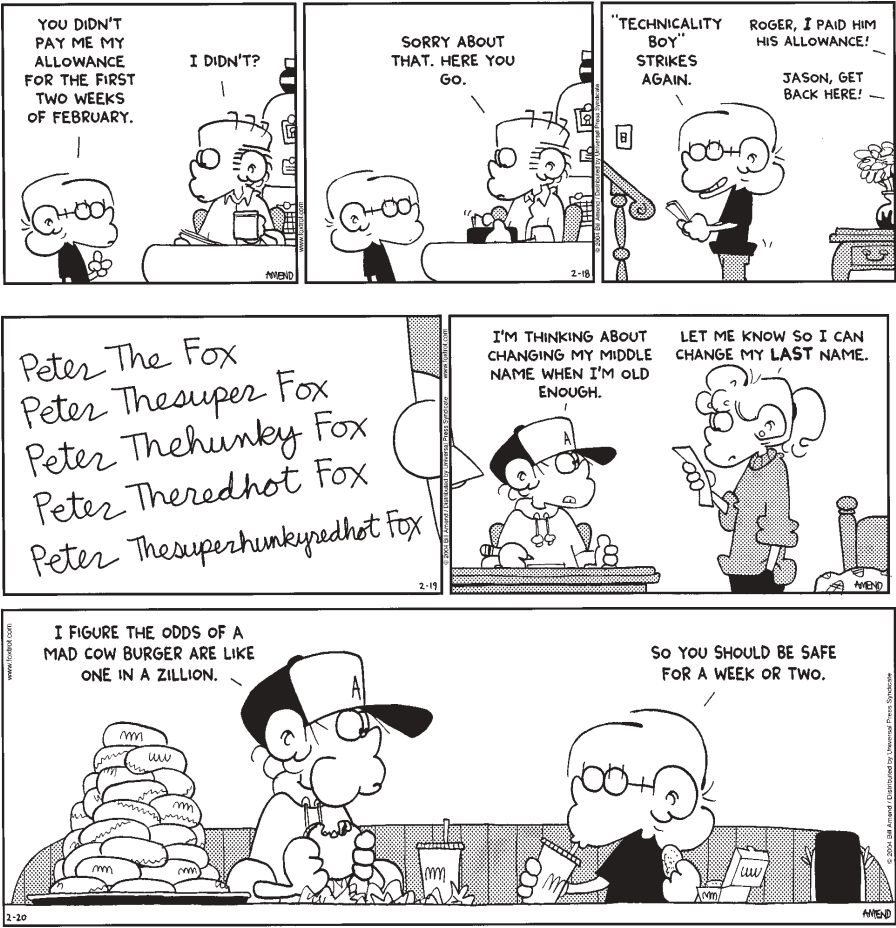
by Saurabh Asthana





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by Bill Amend



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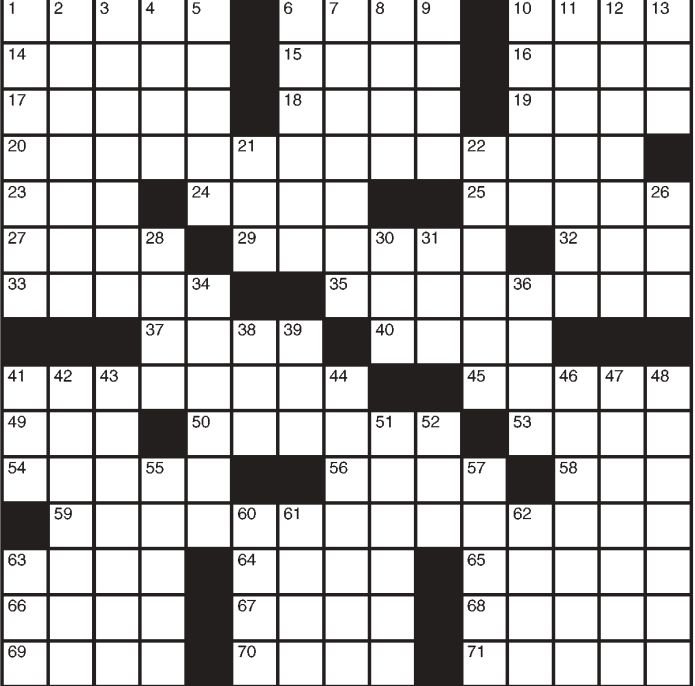
by Scott Adams



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 15

- ACROSS**
1 Richmond's river
6 St. Louis landmark
10 Local yokel
14 In pieces
15 Gilpin of "Frasier"
16 Grandson of Eve
17 Illegal act
18 Indigo dye
19 "Back in Black" rockers
20 The whole thing?
23 ___ favor, senior
24 Honolulu's island
25 Exploiters
27 Underground assets
29 Legendary Giant
32 Two-time loser to DDE
33 Ocean motions
35 Everything
37 Small particle
- 40 Long, narrow cut
41 All out
45 Masonic doorkeeper
49 Saturn model
50 Hale and hearty
53 Tractor-trailer
54 New to the game
56 Image of a god
58 Bridge action
59 All-inclusive
63 "Nana" star
64 Translucent gem
65 Atoll foundation
66 "___ kleine Nachtmusik"
67 Subdivision division
68 Govt. bond
69 Barracks beds
70 Husky sound
71 Wind indicators
- DOWN**
1 Big payoff
2 Deductive
3 Restaurant employee
4 Ms. Bombeck
5 Secretarial skill
6 Cochise or Geronimo
7 French auto maker
8 Baby's bed
9 Hawaiian city
10 Enjoys a novel
11 Fuzzy
12 "10" star
13 PC key
21 Beaver project
22 Surpass in cunning
26 Air-leak sound
28 Tight closure
30 Expressions of surprise
- 31 Part of GTE
34 Buffet tray warmer
36 Singer Redding
38 Ah, I see!
39 Unruly crowd
41 Purchased hair
42 Friend of Hamlet
43 Penny's worth
44 Clapton's axes
46 Former Chrysler model
47 Abu Dhabi or Fujairah
48 Conundrums
51 Lug laboriously
52 Shoe's tip
55 Sea eagles
57 "Law & Order" network
60 Skyrocket
61 Shelter for strays
62 One of the Chaplins
63 Part of a min..



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Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Friday, February 20

10:00 a.m. – Varsity Women’s Swimming NEWMAC Championships. Free. Room: Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Teaching with Technology. Free. Sponsor: Usability at MIT.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – International Mother Language Day Celebration. Free. Room: Student Center Lobby. Sponsor: MIT Bangladeshi Students’ Association, GSC Funding Board.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Focus on the Arts: Elena Ruehr. Presentation by Music and Theater Arts Lecturer Elena Ruehr, a composer whose works are commissioned and performed internationally. Annual mid-winter program of the MIT Women’s League, showcases the work of talented women in the MIT community and League friends. Bring a bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided. Reserve your spot. Free. Room: 10-342. Sponsor: MIT Women’s League.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Focus On The Arts. Composer and lecturer in music Elena Ruehr will discuss her work and introduce the audience to her newest opera. To reserve a seat, please call 253-3656 or e-mail wleague@mit.edu. Free. Room: Emma Rogers Room, 10-340. Sponsor: MIT Women’s League.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Writers Group. New writers are invited to join our weekly Writers Group. Share a piece of your writing with other interested and supportive writers. Open to all MIT students, staff, faculty, and spouses. Free. Room: 14N-417. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Chris Theodore, VP North America Product Development, Ford Motor Company: Lean Product Creation. A discussion of Lean Product Creation and the inter-dependent requirements of culture, process, methods and tools, and knowledge management. Parallels will be drawn between Lean Manufacturing and Lean Product Creation Principles. A demonstration of Lean Product Creation’s application to the development of the Ford GT and further application of Lean Principles to the creation of the Ford Cobra Concept will be shown. Free. Room: E60-225. Sponsor: Center for Innovation in Product Development.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – ACDL Seminar. Runge-Kutta Discontinuous Galerkin Method Using WENO Limiters. Free. Room: 33-206. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – TechTime: PDA Synchronization Quick Start. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Blood Drive. Help the American Red Cross save lives by donating blood. Free. Room: La Sala de Puerto Rico, Student Center. Sponsor: American Red Cross Team and Network, Blood Drives.

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. – MCP seminar. Cap-and-Trade: What, Why, and When. Denny Ellerman Executive Director, Center for Environmental Policy Reserach Massachusetts Institute of Technology abstract. Free. Room: 54-915. Sponsor: Mexico City Project.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – One Week Early: Observing National Engineering Week. Looking for something unique to do during school vacation week? Come celebrate with us: It’s the week before National Engineers Week, and we have activities all week long. All programs spotlight the work, training, and achievements of engineering professors, researchers, and students. Free with Museum admission. All ages. Room: MIT Museum Sponsor: MIT Museum.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – SSL Seminar (David LoBosco). Topic: Integrated Modeling of the Structurally Connected TPF Interferometer with Optical Sensitivities from Code-V. Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

4:00 p.m. – BCS Colloquium - Steven Hsiao, Ph.D. Representation of shape in the somatosensory system. Free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Hosted by Chris Moore.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – On Some Famous Sequences. Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

6:00 p.m. – Shabbat Services & Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel’s three religious communities hold Shabbat services at 6 p.m. A community Shabbat dinner follows at 7 p.m. Cost for dinner only. Room: Religious Activities Center, Bldg w11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – GCF Large Group Fellowship Meeting. Praise and Testamony Night - 40 Days to a Purpose Driven Life kickoff!! Come for worship, fellowship and snacks. Free. Room: W20-306. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

6:00 p.m. – Varsity Pistol Collegiate Sectional. Free. Room: MIT Pistol and Rifle Range in the DuPont Athletic Center.

7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – MIT Anime Club Weekly Showing. The MIT Anime Club shows the best of both recent and classic Japanese animation. Showings are open to the public. Free. Room: 4-370. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT, UA Finance Board.

7:00 p.m. – American Splendor. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. – Comedy Collage. Professional Comedians providing multicultural humor. Have appeared on Comic View, Comedy Central, Star Search, David Letterman and Conan O’Brien. \$2. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Chocolate City.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Shabbat Dinner. The traditional Jewish Friday night meal, in a relaxed and social atmosphere. \$3. Room: Ashdown West Dining. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Grad Hillel.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – ACF Large Group meeting - Gospel and Asian American Culture. Worship, teaching, discussion, food, fun! Prayer meeting at 6 p.m. After Large group event: IHOP. Free. Room: McCormick Brown Living Room. Sponsor: Asian Christian Fellowship.

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Friday Nite Coffee House, hosted by LBGT@MIT. FUN WORKSHOP AND MUSIC. Open to students from other colleges. Please join us for a fun evening starting with a great workshop offered by Dorian Solot and followed up by a performance by a local artist. <http://www.sexualityeducation.com>. Free. Room: Student Center Coffee House. Sponsor: Rainbow Coffeehouse, lbgt@mit, GSC Funding Board. Student Life Programs Office and Office of Community Development and Substance Abuse Prevention.

8:00 p.m. – The Vagina Monologues. MIT’s third year joining the college campaign in which, since 1998, hundreds of colleges and universities around the world produce benefit productions of “The Vagina Monologues” for V-Day, a worldwide movement to stop violence against women and girls. All money raised to be donated directly to organizations that work to end rape, battery, female genital mutilation, and sexual slavery. For more information about V-Day, see <http://www.vday.org>. Tickets will be on sale on-line or in Lobby 10 of MIT two weeks before the show. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: MIT Vagina Monologues.

9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. – Jungle Party 4. TWO DANCE FLOORS—Salsa—Hip Hop/Techno/Top40 || FREE SALSA LESSONS by HIPSONFIRE (starts 10pm) || FREE INDIAN AND CHINESE FOOD || Jungle Juice (Proper ID required) [Sponsored by LEF]. Free. Room: Ashdown House. Sponsor: Ashdown House.

10:00 p.m. – American Splendor. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

All Day – TCC 2004: The First Theory of Cryptography Conference. The conference will provide a meeting place for researchers and be instrumental in shaping the identity of the Theory of Cryptograph. \$130-\$280.00. Room: Grier Room Bldg 34-401B. Sponsor: Conference Services, EECS. Shafi Goldwasser, MIT and Weizmann Institute.

All Day – 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations Open. 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations are Open! <http://web.mit.edu/awards> for information. Nomination deadline: Friday, March 19th. Contact Fran Miles at 3-4051 with questions. Free. Sponsor: Awards Convocation.

Saturday, February 21

12:00 a.m. – 2006 Ring Premiere. Class of 2006 Ring Premiere. Reveals the new ring. Free. Room: Walker Memorial. Sponsor: 2006 Ring Committee.

10:00 a.m. – Varsity Women’s Indoor Track New England Division III Championships. Free. Room: Johnson Athletic Center. **10:00 a.m. – Varsity Women’s Swimming NEWMAC Championships.** Free. Room: Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool.

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Currently studying the gospel of Luke. Free. Room: Edgerton Apt. 221. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

1:00 p.m. – Varsity Men’s Volleyball vs. Wentworth. Free. Room: DuPont Gymnasium.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Isshinryu Karate Workout. Traditional Okinawan Karate in a Small Club Environment. Free. Room: DuPont Exercise Room. Sponsor: Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT.

2:00 p.m. – Varsity Men’s Basketball vs. Eastern Nazarene. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage.

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – International Mother Language Day Celebration (Movie). Free. Room: 4-231. Sponsor: MIT Bangladeshi Students’ Association, GSC Funding Board.

5:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. – Tech Model Railroad Club Meeting. An informal meeting where we design and build the layout and run trains. Visitors welcome. Students welcome to join the club. Club members go to dinner between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., room may be empty at this time. Free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC).

6:00 p.m. – Varsity Pistol Collegiate Sectional. Free. Room: MIT Pistol and Rifle Range in DuPont Athletic Center.

7:00 p.m. – Lost in Translation. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. – Chinese New Year’s Banquet. Join the Association of Taiwanese Students in their Chinese New Year’s Celebration. Dinner and an evening of entertainment will be provided. RSVP to ats-exec@mit.edu. \$5 for members with RSVP, \$8 for non-members without RSVP, \$10 at the door. Room: McCormick Brown Living Room. Sponsor: Association of Taiwanese Students, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. – International Flava! MIT Dance Expo and International Party. Featuring dance performances from MIT Dance Groups including Rita & Filip of MIT Ballroom Dance Team, MIT Casino Rueda Group and more. International Buffet and informational exhibits on some of the many international styles of music and dance represented by MIT dance groups. Beginner’s Salsa Lesson — 7 p.m.; Dancing — 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$2 with MIT ID, \$3 non-MIT; profits go to charity. Room: Sidney-Pacific Multipurpose Room. Sponsor: MIT Casino Rueda Group, Sidney-Pacific House Council. MIT GSO.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Patrol. Travel to strange new classrooms. Meet interesting, unusual people, and kill them! Patrol is a high-action game of live combat with rubber-dart guns. Shoot your friends, then watch out as they try to take their revenge. Free. Room: 36-115. Sponsor: Assassins’ Guild, MIT.

8:00 p.m. – The Vagina Monologues. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: MIT Vagina Monologues.

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Jews on Ice. Come join hundreds of Jewish students from around Boston in MIT Hillel’s Ice Skating Extravaganza. We will be collecting winter clothing for Boston Family Shelter. Free. Room: Johnson’s Ice Rink. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT, UA Finance Board.

10:00 p.m. – Lost in Translation. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

All day – TCC 2004: The First Theory of Cryptography Conference. \$130-\$280. Room: Grier Room Bldg 34-401B. Sponsor: Conference Services, EECS. Shafi Goldwasser, MIT and Weizmann Institute.

All Day – 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations Open.

Sunday, February 22

4:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. – GAME/GA3 Ski Trip. Ski trip to Jay Peak. \$37. Room: Jay Peak. Sponsor: Graduate Association of Mechanical Engineers, GSC Funding Board, Graduate Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

10:00 a.m. – Varsity Women’s Swimming NEWMAC Championships. Free. Room: Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool.

12:30 p.m. – Coolidge Nursing Home Visit. Join us as we go to Coolidge Nursing home to visit with senior citizens. Free. Room: Religious Activities Center, W11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT, UA Finance Board.

2:00 p.m. – MIT Faculty Recital: Jean Rife, horn. With Tomoko Kanamura, piano. Karen Oosterbaan, violin. Brahms’ Trio, op. 40; Françaix’s “Divertimento,” Hindemith’s “Althorn Sonata,” Scriabin’s “Romance.” Free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

2:00 p.m. – Gallery Talk. Led by Hiroko Kikuchi, List Visual Arts Center Education/Outreach Coordinator. Presented in conjunction with “Son et Lumière”. Free. Room: List Visual Arts Center, E15. Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Shivratri Puja. Hindu Religious service for festival Shivratri with Classical Dance Performances by MIT Natya. Free. Room: West Lounge. Sponsor: MIT Hindu Students Council.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Pasta Night. Come enjoy some Free kosher pasta. Free. Room: W11 - Religious Activities Center. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT, UA Finance Board.

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Mardi Gras. Open to the entire MIT community!!! FOOD, JUGGLERS, DANCING, LIMBO, FACE-PAINTING, CULTURE BOOTHS, MASK-MAKING, BEADS, STEEL DRUM, PEN-TOLACCIA, MUSIC, DRINKS, FRIENDS, FUN, FUN, FUN!!! . Free. Room: Walker Memorial. Sponsor: Caribbean-Club, European Club, MIT, Tech Catholic Community, Colombian Students Association, ARCADE (Assisting Recurring Cultural Diversity Events).

7:00 p.m. – American Splendor. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. – The Man on the Train. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – International Folk Dancing (participatory). International folk dancing. Teaching and beginners’ dances from 8 to 9 p.m. A mixture of all skill levels from 9 to 11 p.m. We will move to La Sala de Puerto Rico on the second floor of the Student Center if it is available. Free for MIT/Wellesley students. Suggested donation of \$1 from others. Room: W20-491. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

10:00 p.m. – Lost in Translation. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:30 p.m. – The Man on the Train. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

All Day – 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations Open.

Monday, February 23

12:00 p.m. – MIT \$50K Competition - Executive Summaries Due. Free. Sponsor: MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Nuclear & Particle Theory Seminar. Hadronic light-by-light scattering contribution to the muon anomalous magnetic moment revisited. Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Biopolitical State from the Margins: Notes on Trajectories of Illness among the Urban Poor. STS Colloquium. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: STS.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – TBA. Free. Room: 2-143. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar, Mathematics, Department of.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – LBGT & Questioning Support and Discussion Group. Facilitated bi-weekly support and discussions for all LBGT and questioning undergraduate and graduate students - not just for coming out. Safe and confidential! Free. Room: 5-104. Sponsor: lbgt@mit.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Mechanics Seminar: “Exact theory of unsteady flow separation.” In 1904, Ludwig von Prandtl derived a criterion for separation on no-slip boundaries of two-dimensional steady fluid flows. Free. Room: 3-370. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering Dept.

5:00 p.m. – Student Origami Exhibit Submissions Due. Submit works to the Office of the Arts. Creative paper choices and original designs encouraged. No glue or tape allowed. Free. Room: Rm E15-205. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, MIT Japan Program. Office of Assistant Professor Erik Demaine.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – Aga Khan Program in Islamic Archtiecture Travel Grant Presentation. By MIT Graduate Student Recipients of the 2003 Aga Khan Travel Grant Awards. Free. Room: Rm 3-133. Sponsor: Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Isshinryu Karate Workout. Traditional Okinawan Karate in a Small Club Environment. Free. Room: Rockwell Cage Half-Court. Sponsor: Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Meditation and Tea. A wonderful opportunity to cultivate a quiet, clear and serene mind and conversations. Free. Room: Simmons Hall. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Studying 1 John. Free. Room: Ashdown Lobby. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

8:00 p.m. – Francophone movie night. Free. Room: 1-190. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Club Francophone.

All Day – 2004 Awards Convocation Nominations Open.

Soldier Design Prizes Awarded

By Lauren E. LeBon
STAFF REPORTER

The final judging of the first annual Soldier Design competition this Tuesday drew young MIT inventors, representatives from the United States Army, and a handful of war protesters.

The Soldier Design competition invited MIT students to come up with solutions that American soldiers face in everyday combat. The contest was sponsored by the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (ISN) at MIT. Over \$10,000 in prizes were awarded to the nine finalist teams.

First prize and \$5,000 went to Team "TacShot," comprising Peter K. Augenbergs '05, Chris R. Pentacoff '05, Andrew Heafitz S.M. '01, and Frederick S. Gay '07. The team invented a rocket that, when launched, takes reconnaissance snapshots of the terrain and transmits them to a nearby base station.

The ISN, established in 2002 with a \$50 million grant from the United States Army, is a group working to create a high-tech battle suit that caters to the needs and comfort of a soldier.

Teams create military gadgets

Team Surreptiles, a group of five sophomores, all majoring in Materials Science and Engineering, took the second place prize with their hand-arm communication system. The wearable device allows a soldier to communicate about directions, commands, and other information to fellow soldiers by using a series of hand-signals.

David D. Lin '05 said his teammates and he came up with the idea while punting a problem set.

Third place prize went to

Matthew R. Carvey '05 and Benjamin D. Smith '05 and their automatic parachute release mechanism. The device is designed to measure the acceleration and trigger the opening of a parachute accordingly.

Other projects included a compact cutting tool that can cut through chain-link fences and is 75 percent smaller than other tools of its kind. The tool was made by Dennis D. Dillon '05, Patrick L. Korb '05, and Chris Mattenberger '06.

Cameron A. Dube '06, Conor P. Lenahan '07, and David Pitman designed an LED flashlight that extends the battery life of the device and changes from white to red light.

Thomas praises competitors

Competition judges came from the United States army, engineering and management departments at MIT, and manufacturing companies.

"Devices from this competition could easily end up in soldiers' hands in the near future," said ISN director Ned Thomas in a press release. "These are real problems we're addressing, and if a team comes up with a great design, the Army could certainly move it forward."

"We see dramatic examples in the news every day of how much danger these guys face in Iraq and elsewhere," Thomas said in the press release. "I'm excited so many MIT undergraduates, in particular, have come out for this competition and demonstrated some amazing engineering."

Some protest the contest, ISN

The competition drew some

criticism from some students around the MIT campus.

MIT's Refuse and Resist group hung posters around campus with slogans such as "Want to waste your talent? Join us at the ISN!" and "Is \$10,000 really worth it?"

Sebastian Raupach G, a visiting physics graduate student from Germany, attended the competition, saying that he felt troubled by the "one-sidedly advertised military research without commenting on moral questions." He cited the Soldier Design competition and the Lincoln Labs as two major examples of the focus on military research on campus.

"While the stress is defensive research, it misses the point that there might be something fundamentally wrong with doing military research on campus," Raupach said.



IRONY ISN'T DEAD—A banner outside Bexley Hall pokes fun at the new flag policy.

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A Cambridge firefighter checks his gear after stepping out of a burning building at 301 Massachusetts Avenue Thursday night. A 3,000 watt generator caught fire at the headquarters of Bluefin Robotics, closing off the street for several hours.

PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Admissions To Drop As Funding Shrinks

Admission, from Page 1

Reduced funds to cut admissions

Several departments may have to decrease the number of students they admit this coming year because of a decrease in their funding.

Arthur C. Smith, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science said he expects the Course VI department to cut back on its admissions from last year because "we have more [students] than we can handle."

Of the 2,475 applicants received, Smith said he hopes to admit about 165 of those though there is "pressure to admit more." Smith cited the unusually high yield from last year, over 70 percent compared with the usual 60 percent, and the unavailability of financial support and supervision as reasons for a decline in admissions.

The Department of Material Science and Engineering has seen a decline of about 100 applicants from last year but also expects to reduce the number of admitted students because of a reduction in fellowship money available, said Kathleen R. Farrell, academic administrator of the Department of Material Science and Engineering.

These numbers are not final, however, since Course III is still accepting applications until March, Farrell said.

The Department of Mathematics will also accept fewer students because of a decline in the fellowships available, said Etingof. The number of students enrolled in pure and applied math is expected to be decreased to 107 next fall, while it is usually around 120.

International applicants down

The number of international applicants decreased by more than 1,000 this year.

"The number of applicants are down across the country," said Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook, director and associate dean for international students, mentioning that the result is possibly because of an increase in the number and enforcement of regulations introduced after Sept. 11.

She said that foreigners may potentially perceive the United States as a less friendly environment because of the new regulations, and choose to go to other countries instead for their education. However, "we don't have the evidence that that's happening yet," Guichard-Ashbrook said.

The increased difficulties for international students are a result of increased enforcement as well as new laws that were created with the passage of the Patriot Act and the formation of Department of Homeland Security, Guichard-Ashbrook said.

She noted several additional procedures that international students must go through to enter and remain

in the United States, including fingerprinting and an interview.

The time it takes to obtain a visa has also increased significantly, making it extremely difficult for students to leave the country and return home.

It is unclear what effect the decline of international applicants will have on the diversity of students at MIT. As of November of last year, international students made up 36 percent of MIT graduate students and 25 percent of all students.

Some departments will feel the impact of the international student drop more than others. About half the students in Course XVIII are international.

"We do suffer a lot from these policies," said Pavel I. Etingof, associate professor in the Department of Mathematics. "We are trying to help [the students] as much as we can" by making sure they can still register and bending the rules to help late arrivers, he said.

While graduate applications are down, Sandra Wellford, academic administrator of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, said that the number of international student applicants for the PhD program are up.

She said a possible reason for this difference is that "a lot of our PhD applicants are already in the United States" because they are currently attending other universities or working.

Effect varies in other departments

The institute-wide applicant decline has affected some departments more than others. The number of applicants to the Department of Mechanical Engineering dropped by 200 from last year, after increasing significantly in the past two years. This year's numbers were "pretty standard," said Joan Kravit, senior administrative assistant in the mechanical engineering department.

According to an e-mail from Barbara E. Lechner, academic administrator in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Course XVI saw virtually no change in the number of applications it received, despite a 29 percent drop in international applicants.

The number of people applying to the Department of Physics decreased by 14 percent from last year, from 707 to 610, with a 19 percent reduction in international applicants according to an e-mail from Nadia Halhoul, graduate administrative assistant in the physics department.

The Department of Architecture saw a decline from 684 to 570 applicants, said Donna M. Beaudry, an administrative assistant in the Department of Architecture. This decline was a result of about an equal decrease in both international and domestic applicants.

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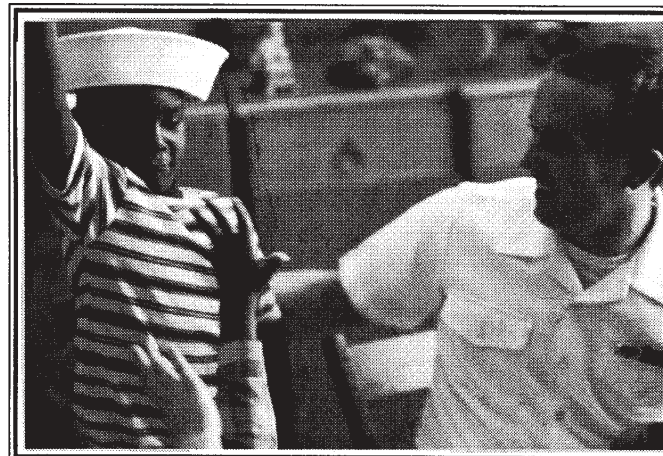
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Molina Leaving MIT To Establish Center On the Environment

By Julian Villarreal
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Nobel Prize-winning Institute Professor Mario Molina will leave MIT this summer to join the faculty of the University of California at San Diego.

He cited personal reasons as well as a desire to re-focus his work on environmental policy issues as reasons for his departure.

Molina moves closer to his work

Molina, a native of Mexico and a professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and the Department of Chemistry, said that his extensive work on environmental issues in Mexico made a move to UCSD attractive.

He said that his environmental science projects in Mexico have put him in a position in which he spends “too much time travelling.”

“It’s a very hard thing to do,” he said, referring to his exhaustive travel schedule.

He said that moving to UCSD would afford him greater proximity to his native Mexico and afford his work more efficiency.

Molina added that it was “an exceeding difficult decision” to leave MIT.

“MIT has treated me very, very well,” Molina said, citing specifically his collaborative work, which he characterized as “very productive.”

EAPS regrets loss

Chair of the Faculty Rafael L. Bras, also a friend and colleague of Molina, said, “Mario is a good friend of mine, and it’s sad to see him go ... He’s an extraordinary colleague and citizen of MIT.”

Bras praised Molina for his “generosity and intellectual power.” He said Molina’s situation of travelling to and from MIT frequently is “not uncommon with many MIT professors.”

“MIT tries it’s darnedest to keep it’s people, but, in the end, it’s a personal decision” to leave, Bras said. “Mario and [his wife] Luisa will be

missed,” he said.

Fellow EAPS professor, Ronald G. Prinn, said that Molina’s departure, “is a large blow to our department.”

“He [and] Luisa Molina ... will be sorely missed by me, personally, and by their colleagues across the campus,” he said.

“We will need to work very hard to recover from this if MIT is to maintain its outstanding reputation in environmental science,” he added. “I am confident that we can do that.”

UCSD offers new opportunities

Molina mentioned that, once at UCSD, he will establish a center for energy and environmental issues.

By leaving MIT, Molina said that he will concentrate less on “basic science and laboratory research” and more on the impact of that research and on communicating science and policy to governments in developing countries.

He mentioned some of the policy issues he intends to work on include “air quality issues, water pollution, and energy usage and its effects on the environment.”



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

“You happy? You made me talk — you got it out of me. You got an old lady to talk about her ‘Down There.’” Susannah Mandel plays the part of an older woman during the final rehearsal of The Vagina Monologues Wednesday night. The production runs this Thursday through Saturday.

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Solution to Crossword

from page 11

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Banner Across Field Possibly Hazardous

Flag, from Page 1

said Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson.

Nilsson said when she arrived at MIT on Tuesday morning, there were several items hung from various residence halls. By noon, housing had removed most of the items under the existing policy that prohibits items from being hung on dormitory fronts.

Most of the hung items, Nilsson said, were "pretty harmless," such as stuffed animals and banners.

Flags of different nationalities hung from windows of East Campus. Meanwhile, at Bexley Hall, a banner read "Bexxley Supports Karen Nilsson!" Nilsson said she appreciated the support, but the banner had to come down according to the policy.

However, not all of the items were harmless. Nilsson said one item had the potential to cause "serious, serious personal damage": the large banner hung from the 16th floor of MacGregor House to the ninth floor of Simmons Hall.

Nilsson said the banner was hung with wire cabling, which made it very difficult to take down safely. The banner hung over Amherst and Vassar streets, and cutting the wire could "whip back" and hit traffic or pedestrians. Also, the wire cabling could hit high-voltage power lines on Amherst and

Vassar streets and potentially knock out power.

Nilsson said the removal process was difficult, "quite expensive," and involved the MIT Campus Police and the MIT Safety Office.

Still, Nilsson said that the students she talked to throughout the day were "pretty cooperative."

"I think today was a difficult day for housing," Nilsson said on Tuesday.

Sam H. Kendig '06 said he did not directly participate in the flag protest because his window in East Campus does not open fully. He did, however, assist his hallmates in hanging items.

"If MIT wants to say we aren't allowed to hang flags, that's perfectly their right, these are MIT buildings," Kendig said.

New policy considers exceptions

Benedict said that the new policy will not be closed to exceptions. For example, Benedict said a dormitory could have an exemption for hanging a welcome sign during orientation.

Also exempt from the new policy are window air conditioners, said Nilsson.

Window air conditioners, provided they are safely installed and approved by house managers and maintenance staff, may be approved on a case-by-case basis, Nilsson said.



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Library Will Not Be In New BCS Project

BCS, from Page 1

around,” he said. Christopher Moore a BCS assistant professor, said that he heard about the decision to move the materials three to four months ago, and “was shocked and dismayed.” “It’s a tremendous loss,” he said. He said that he found the library very beneficial in terms of both its focus on cognitive sciences and proximity to his office, which is in the same building.

More said that when he heard about the move, he met with Gass, who explained the reasons for the decision. “I understood their arguments, but I think it’s too bad,” he said.

Denny pointed out that in some ways the move might be beneficial, because the science library has much longer hours and the 24-hour study room would be readily available. Currently, Schering-Plough is closed on Saturdays and open from 2-6 p.m. on Sundays.

Closing cuts costs

Steven Gass, associate director for public services, said that originally the library administrators had hoped that Schering-Plough would move into the new brain and cognitive sciences project along with the BCS department.

However, the three major groups that would move into the new facility, the Brain and Cognitive Sciences department, the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, determined there wasn’t space for the library in the new facility.

Relocation to the science library was originally scheduled to coincide with the opening of the new project to allow easier access, since the Science library is much closer to the building project, but budgeting issues speeded up the decision, Miller said.

“We had a whole series of discussions with the Dean of Science [Robert J. Silbey] and Provost [Robert A. Brown] to handle the reality of budget” constraints, Wolpert said.

“We certainly communicated to all of the faculty the intention before anything was finalized,” Gass said.

Wolpert also said that informa-

tion was provided to the Faculty Committee on the Library System, which has two undergraduate and graduate student representatives.

Faculty were notified in late October, and although some were disappointed with the library closing, Gass said, “I believe that people thought the decision was rational.”

Gass estimates that the move will save approximately \$50,000 in operating expenses.

Committee to coordinate move

Many of the details of the move have not yet been determined, but two weeks ago a committee was formed to plan the move, Miller said.

Howard J. Silver associate head of the science library and a member of committee, said that approximately 2250 books, or 150 shelves’ worth, in addition to 70 shelves of journals or the equivalent of about 70 different titles, would be moved from Schering-Plough. He estimated that 40-50 shelves total of material from Science and Schering-Plough would be moved into storage in off-campus facilities.

The decision of what to put into storage is made according to usage, Miller said. Materials are routinely put into storage as the libraries need to make room for new books.

The Schering-Plough librarians will still have jobs and work at the Science library instead, Denny said.

Library space is lacking

Gass said he thinks the move is only a temporary solution, and there is a much larger concern of lack of space for both books and people. “One-third of our collections are in storage, and relative to our peers we have a low ratio of seats [available in the libraries] to people,” he said.

Wolpert said that having such a large portion of the materials stored off-campus is a costly handicap, since it is both expensive and time-consuming to transport off-campus materials should students request them.

“Several years from now, we hope to have a new science and engineering library,” Miller said.

“We very excited about the prospect of a new library” in the future Wolpert said.

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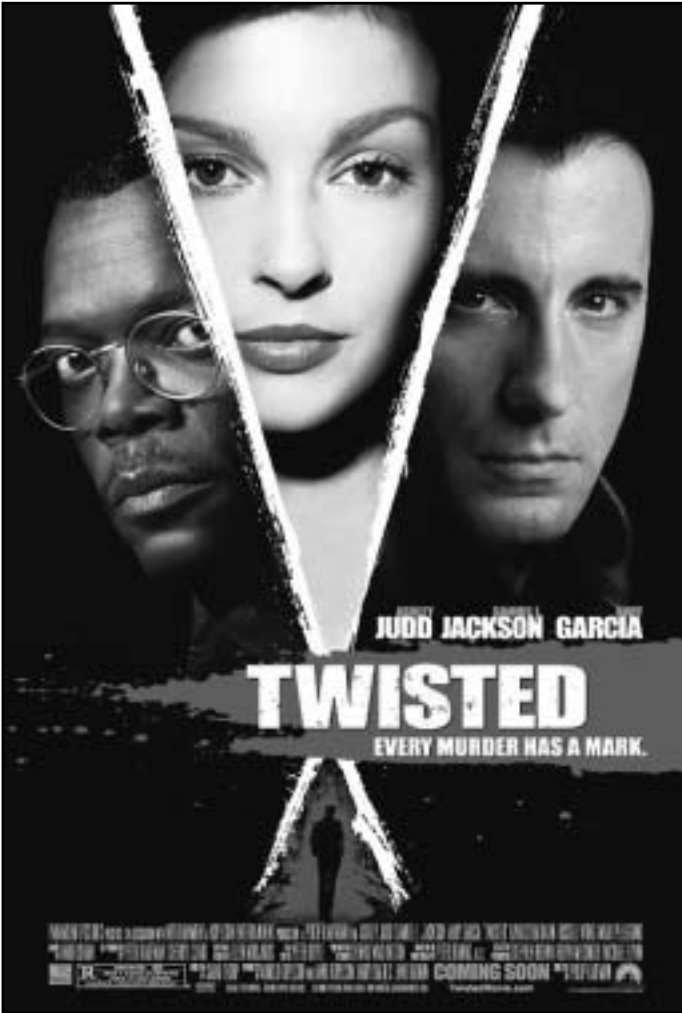
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Students Disagree on What Makes the Best President

President, from Page 1

Other students, however, stressed the importance of qualifications over gender. “Whoever is best qualified” should get the job, said Stephanie S. Cavagnaro-Wong ’06. She went on to say that currently, there “more men qualified than women.”

Another point made was that the new president would need to feel that he or she received the job based on his or her own merit.

“It could be a bad thing to have a woman if she feels she’s been put there because she’s a woman,” said Andrea L. Crandall ’04.

Challenges for a new president

Students brought up many different challenges that the new president will have to focus on in the next decade.

Specifically, students discussed the future of the fraternity, sorority, and independent living group systems.

“One of the biggest problems he is going to have to solve is the future of the FSILG system,” said Undergraduate Association treasurer John R. Velasco ’05.

Another challenge that the new president will have to face is preserving MIT’s distinctive culture.

There is a “definite trend away from what MIT has stood for and been,” Cavagnaro-Wong said. “[We] need someone willing to stand up for MIT’s culture and protect it,” she said.

Specifically, some students felt that the new MIT president would need to be more lenient towards hacks. “They’re kind of cutting down” on student hacks, said Brian D. Owens ’07, saying that the current policy appears to be “if you’re going to do a hack, register it.”

No decision on alum requirement

Students expressed mixed opinions on whether or not the next MIT president needs be an MIT alumnus or alumna.

Students arguing against the necessity of a former MIT student as president cited the benefits of a new outlook on the way things work at the Institute. It may be good to have a “different perspective,” said Andrea T. Urmanita ’06. Urmanita did say that the new president “need[s] to understand what the cul-

ture is.”

Not all students shared this sentiment. For example, Sonali Rudra ’04 said she preferred an MIT graduate. He or she would be able “to sympathize with us” and garner “more respect” among faculty, she said.

Other students addressed this issue by suggesting that candidates who have been part of MIT’s faculty for at least parts of their career should also be considered.

Science background encouraged

Students’ opinions were also mixed on the necessary professional background of the new president. Primarily, students discussed whether a scientific background was necessary for the new president, with no uniform opinion presented at the end of the matter.

Some felt it was essential, while others saw it merely as a bonus. Without a scientific background, any new president would face difficulty in monitoring how well the Institute was working according to Barrett S. Mitchell ’06.

However, not everyone agreed. “A science background is not as important as the ability to understand and promote MIT’s core values,” said Alvin M. Lin ’04.

Another consideration voiced was the desire for the new president to have experience in dealing with a population as diverse as MIT.

“I’d like to see some experience dealing with racial or diversity issues,” said Jacob W. Faber ’04, Undergraduate Association vice president.

Students seek person of respect

One important quality of the new president, according to the attending students, is that he or she must be able to command the respect of others.

The president’s job includes “projecting what it means to be MIT, to the world,” said Anna L. Stevens G.

Overall, discussion on the responsibilities of the president focused on his or her role as a representative of MIT to the world, and of the world to MIT.

Recognition at the national and international level was important to some students. The next presi-

dent “should command an international presence,” Owens said.

However, at the same time, the new president must be involved with MIT’s internal affairs. The

president should have “credibility and respect within our faculty,” Ang said.

In addition, this respect should be present in “engineering as well

as [the Humanities, Arts and Social Science] departments,” he said. “A leader must be able to rally all students together as one unit.”

Interviews to Start in a Month

By Marissa Vogt
NEWS EDITOR

The two committees charged with the task of selecting MIT’s 16th president will begin discussions with potential candidates for the presidency within the next four weeks, said James A. Champy ’63, chair of the Corporation Committee on the Presidency.

The committee has been meeting jointly with the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Corporation on the Presidential Search since the two committees were formed in January.

“The search committee is very engaged and hard at work,” Champy said. “We are close to identifying people we would like to talk with.”

Champy said that the committee, which right now is meeting every two weeks, is “three to four weeks away from beginning to talk to potential candidates.”

As the committee begins speaking with candidates, it will also begin to meet more often, he said. He also said that he expects they will be meeting with students “within two to three weeks.”

Champy said that names of potential candidates

are coming from a variety of sources, including faculty, students and alumni.

Search involves interview process

Jerome I. Friedman, chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Corporation on the Presidential Search, said that the committees are working to “understand special opportunities and challenges a president at MIT would face.”

Friedman called the search “broad,” saying that they were considering a wide variety of candidates.

Champy said “the committees will start to narrow the candidates to a smaller and smaller pool” eventually, but that point is still “months away.”

Friedman said that interviews with candidates will provide a “good chance to see what that person’s vision is for MIT.”

“There are certainly some fundamental values” the committees will be looking for, said Champy, including “a belief in excellence and openness.” Champy said the committee will also be looking for “skills you would expect from a president, such as leadership and management.”

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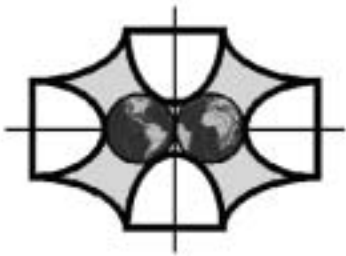
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JINA KIM—THE TECH

Daniel Z. Shen ’05 displays his mohawk carved with the letters “MIT.” With the help of friends, he molded it with Elmer’s glue on Monday night. He touted his new style around the Infinite Corridor on Tuesday.

Women to Host NEWMAC Finals

By Victoria K. Anderson
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Women's Swimming and Diving Team will play host to the 2004 New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference NEWMAC Swimming and Diving Championships February 20-22. The Beavers have finished as runners-up to Springfield College in every NEWMAC Championship since 2001, with the closest contest being in 2002 when the Pride edged past MIT 1078.5 to 1069.5 in the final standings. This year will likely be another two-way battle for first place, as Springfield and MIT boast NEWMAC records of 3-0 and 4-1, respectively, with MIT's lone conference loss coming from a dual meet with Springfield. The perennial third-place finisher, Wellesley College, also has a 4-1 NEWMAC record, but does not enter the cham-

pionships with the same dual-meet season strength, as they did not face Springfield and lost to MIT. In their effort to claim the championship title, MIT will depend heavily on their strengths in the freestyle and individual medley races, in which they hold the top times in the conference at every distance. In the 50, 100, and 200-yard freestyle races, Kathryn M. Duffy '04 tops the list, while Katherine C. Thornton '07 holds the top times in the 500 and 1650 freestyle as well as the 200 butterfly. Jennifer A. L'ao '05 sits atop the rankings in the 200 and 400 individual medley to strengthen the Beavers' position going into the meet. MIT will also depend on stroke races to amass points. For the 100-yard races, Aasia Saleemuddin '04 is ranked 10th in the butterfly, Melissa E. Dere '06 is ranked fourth

in the breast, and Erin M. Zoller '05 is ranked sixth in the backstroke. Zoller also currently sits sixth in the 200 backstroke while Dere is at third in the 200 breaststroke. The relays, which have generally been a strong suit for the Beavers, will likely parallel the overall competition, with MIT and Springfield racing for the top spot in each of the relays. Springfield holds the top seed in all five relays, and MIT is seeded second in the 200, 400, and 800 freestyle relays as well as the 200 medley relay. The meet will start off with the trials for the 200 freestyle relay at noon today, with the finals for the events contested at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday trial sessions will begin at 11 a.m., while the finals sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Diving trials will start at 2 p.m. today and at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Volleyball Wins Last Four of Five Games

Volleyball, from Page 20

match-ups and found themselves with a slight lead late in the third game. Rivier tried to make a run, but MIT held their ground and finished off the third game 30-28. Unfortunately, the Engineers came up a bit short and lost the match 1-3. However, having played such a top quality team so closely left the Engineers with some much deserved confidence. In their most recent match, the Engineers faced a Lasell College squad that pushed MIT to five games in their previous meeting. MIT came out strong in the first game, and although Lasell made a late run, MIT was able to slam the

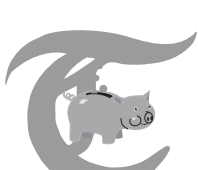
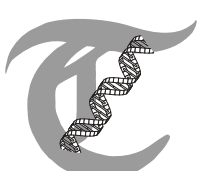
door winning a close game 36-34. After devastating Lasell in the second game 30-12, the Engineers ill-advisedly took their foot off the gas and allowed their opponents to steal the third game. Thankfully, MIT quickly took charge of the fourth game and won the match 3-1. Javad Golji '06 had the hot hand in the match as he collected 18 kills on the day, but it was setter Jordan X. Wan '06 who had one of the best matches of his career running an efficient offense and dishing out 65 assists and getting 11 digs in the effort. The team will face Wentworth Institute of Technology on Saturday, Feb. 21st at 1 p.m. in DuPont Gymnasium.



Above: Maria E. Hidalgo '04 drives to the hoop around a Babson College opponent during the varsity women's basketball match Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Right: Karen A. Kinnaman '06 leaps for control of the ball amidst traffic. After a very close first half, MIT eventually lost to the Babson Beavers 43-65.

Photography by Peter R. Russo



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SPORTS

MIT Men's Hockey to Semifinals

By Andrew C. Thomas
COLUMNIST

MIT's Varsity Men's Hockey team, coming off a strong 10-1-0 regular season against NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association opponents, continued their domination into the playoffs as they easily handled their opponents from Endicott College in quarterfinal action, ensuring a place in semifinal play on Saturday afternoon in Worcester.

Team captain Adam Vokac G led the way with four goals, the first three all on the power play in a span of 3:41 in the first period for the natural hat trick, and assisted on two others. Brent Fisher G tipped his own hat and put up all three remaining tallies for the Engineers, including a beautiful point-blank top shelf over the shoulder of shelled but brave

Endicott goaltender Jeff Pardue. Endicott began the game with the momentum, giving MIT goaltender Tom Hopkins '07 a bit to work with. But the game took a sharp turn after Fisher scored the opening goal at 6:37 of the first period. After killing a tripping penalty to Brian LaCrosse '07, another tripping call against Endicott provided the spark in MIT's offense as Vokac scored halfway through the ensuing power play.

Adam Shabshelowitz '06 put on a dazzling display of forechecking and general pestering; he got under the skin of several Endicott players and drew a major penalty for hitting from behind from Endicott's Mike Manfredi, who also received a game misconduct on the play, which gave the Engineers an opportunity to put themselves even further ahead.

It was an opportunity they

couldn't refuse, and they took full advantage, as Vokac scored twice before the end of the first period. Alternate captain Nick Fahey '05 assisted on all three goals, and Nick Maietta '07 and Kyle McKenney '05 had one helper each.

A shakier second period awaited the Engineers, as Endicott's special teams scored two; one on the power play by Josh Gilbert, and a shorthanded goal on a breakaway by Mark Vaughan.

But the recovery was quick for MIT, as Vokac and Fisher combined on three successive goals to put the Engineers far and above the Endicott squad.

Of note, Endicott captain Adam Partelidis, in what can only be imagined as a repeated attempt to motivate his team, took several trips to the penalty box and earned a ten minute misconduct for arguing with the officials after being called for tripping.



Top: Men's varsity hockey coach Mark O'Meara looks on as an Endicott College player moves the puck down the ice.

Bottom: MIT center Brent R. Fisher G rushes to the net around an Endicott opponent. Fisher scored three goals and had one assist during the game. The Engineer's won the match 7-3, and advance to the NECHA semifinals.

Photography by Andrew C. Thomas

Men's Volleyball Has Record Week of Wins

By Paul Dill
TEAM COACH

The Varsity Men's Volleyball Team had it's best week this season going 4-1 to give the team a record of 7-6 overall, and 6-4 in conference. The Engineers got the better of Newbury College, Johnson & Wales University, Elms College and Lasell College, and only came up short against nationally ranked Rivier College.

Against Newbury College, MIT got off to a slow start losing the first game, but quickly got on track behind the offensive power of Robert M. McAndrew '05 and Michelangelo A. Raimondi '06 who led the offense with 21 and 12 kills respectively. Raimondi also led the team in digs with 11 and added two service aces to help the team to a 3-1 victory. The match against Johnson & Wales started much the same way as the previous match as the Engineers took the first game to warm up before taking control of the match winning 3-1. Kabir

Mukaddum '05 led the way with a strong all around performance. His 8 kills, 12 digs and 3 service aces were instrumental in the win. Bob G. Aspell '06 also provided consistency to the effort with a perfect zero hitting errors for a .500 hitting percentage.

Over the weekend, MIT hosted a tri-match with Elms College and Rivier College. The Elms match was truly a team effort as everyone was able to contribute to the 3-0 win. McAndrew again led the way with ten kills and five service aces, but strong role play by Alex Borschow '06 with 4 kills and David Bermejo '07 with four digs were key to the victory.

Against Rivier, MIT was pushed hard. As the #6 ranked Division III program in the country, having already beaten MIT easily in an earlier tournament, Rivier came into the match very confident. They beat MIT in the first two games, but after making adjustments in the lineup, the Engineers were able to exploit some

Volleyball, Page 19

Amidst the Fuss, Yanks Keep the Game Thriving

By Yong-Yi Zhu
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The Yankees are good for baseball.

I may sound a bit sacrilegious living in Boston and tooting the Evil Empire's horn, but hey, I'm no Yankee lover by any stretch of the imagination (I happen to be a National League kind of guy, but that's beside the point). All I know is that what's good for the goose is good for the gander, and what's good for the Yankees is good for baseball. In fact, what's good for the Yankees may even be good for the Red Sox (more on that later).

The biggest benefit of having a blockbuster player (A-Rod) dealt to a blockbuster team is that it generates blockbuster media. Just think, did we hear anything about anything else this Sunday in the world of sports? The Yankees managed to overshadow the NBA All-Star game, the Daytona 500, the dethroning of Duke atop the NCAA and the first PGA tour win for John Daly in nine years. It was almost as though this were sweeps weekend and all the different sports tried to cash in with the biggest episodes. But none of them could beat baseball, not even President Bush and Air Force One.

Don't get me wrong, the rest of baseball may not openly say that they like what the Yankees have done, but did everyone forget about luxury taxes and revenue sharing? I'm sure that the small market teams like the Devil Rays and the Marlins hate the fact that George Steinbrenner must pay them millions more because he now owns A-Rod. No, nobody likes money nowadays. Oh, by the way, the small market teams that have struggled against the Yankees will still struggle, and the ones that don't still won't; you can bet on that. (If the Marlins, Angels or Diamondbacks are going to win again, they will win even if the Yankees have nine A-Rods.)

Okay, so some call the A-Rod deal sickening and some call it fantastic, but after all is said and done, the deal was absolute genius. Did anybody have a clue

as to what was going on between Texas and New York until late Saturday/Sunday morning? Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman kept everything under the table and under the media's radar. He, unlike Boston GM Theo Epstein and President Larry Lucchino, could keep his mouth shut. Boston might want to learn a lesson from this and not open its presents before they are wrapped. The Boston public loves big news, but there is a right time to give it: when there's actually news to be given. What the Yankees did shocked the baseball world because nobody saw it coming until it was too late. Perhaps now, Epstein will learn to go quietly off into the sunset searching for the perfect hitter or pitcher (well, at least the one that's still available).

That brings us to another point. Now, Epstein will be forced to look for talent instead of just plopping down mega-bucks for it. He will have to use his head, just like Billy Beane in Oakland. Who can he get at a decent price? And who can he get to beat the Yankees? Epstein did well last trade deadline when he brought in Scott Sauerbeck and Scott Williamson, despite the Yankees' obvious needs for those pitchers. Epstein might just land Eric Chavez next, now that he has the resources, and can even resign Nomar Garciaparra. Boston at least now knows the Yankee lineup: pretty much everyone there is under huge contracts. What can the Red Sox do to counter? I guess that the Yankees just bring out the best in the Red Sox.

In fact, what the Yankees have done is simply taken advantage of the league that they play in. Major League Baseball, unlike many of the other sports, does not limit monopolies. If Steinbrenner can afford a player, what's wrong with digging into his own pockets a little? After all, the A-Rod deal was a sudden strike of unimaginable proportions; that sounds like the military tactics of George W. Bush and Microsoft. And while Bush and Microsoft were beneficial to the US in some ways, they were also unbeatable. Only time will tell if the Yankees follow in that suit as well.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

- Friday, Feb. 20:**
10 a.m., Women's NEWMAC Swimming Championships, Z-Center Pool
6 p.m., Pistol Collegiate Sectional, DuPont Gym
- Saturday, Feb. 21:**
10 a.m., Women's NEWMAC Swimming Championships, Z-Center Pool
10 a.m., Varsity Women's Indoor Track New England Division III Championships, Johnson Center
1 p.m., Varsity Men's Volleyball, Wentworth, DuPont Gym
2 p.m., Varsity Men's Basketball, Eastern Nazarene, Rockwell Cage
6 p.m., Pistol Collegiate Sectional, DuPont Gym